2014 Recreational Saltwater Fishing SUMMIT

SUMMARY REPORT

AN ONGOING CONVERSATION ABOUT IMPROVING THE SCIENCE, SERVICE, AND STEWARDSHIP OF AMERICA'S SALTWATER RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

The 2014 Summit brought together the saltwater recreational fishing community, partners, and NOAA leadership to reflect on past progress, identify current challenges, and collaborate on solutions. The two-day meeting featured interactive stakeholder-driven discussions and information-sharing designed to improve NOAA's understanding and continue building a more productive dialogue and relationship with the recreational fishing community.

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Chapter One
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We are spearheading a new agenda in the recreational fishing arena to rebuild relations and improve working dynamics between this Agency and recreational fishermen.

It makes good economic sense for families, businesses, and communities—recreational fishing has a staggering $58 billion in total sales impacts, contributed $30 billion to total Gross Domestic Product in 2012 and supports 381,000 jobs—as many as amazon.com and Ford combined.

We also recognize that the recreational fisheries agenda isn't just about economics. It's also about saltwater recreational fishing as a mainstay of America's culture and our love of the great outdoors.

—Edited excerpt from Dr. Kathryn Sullivan's opening remarks

Background

Management of recreational saltwater fisheries is important to NOAA Fisheries (the Agency). In September 2009, the Agency embarked on a focused effort called the *Recreational Saltwater Fisheries Engagement Initiative* (*Engagement Initiative*), meant to increase the effectiveness of Agency management and better serve the recreational fishing community (Community). The ultimate goal of this effort is to establish a strong and trusting partnership between the Agency and the Community. The *Engagement Initiative* created a forum meant to develop actions to address priority issues, follow through on commitments, and empower anglers as responsible stewards and resource users.

The April 2010 Recreational Saltwater Fishing Summit (2010 Summit) was an early *Engagement Initiative* action. During the 2010 Summit, participants, industry anglers and representatives, and associated organization representatives developed a set of recommendations—many of which the Agency incorporated into the October 2010 Recreational Saltwater Fishing Action Agenda (2010 Action Agenda), which identifies important steps NOAA has taken since the 2010 Summit to strengthen ties between the Agency and the Community. It also encourages participation in the management process and ensures a satisfying recreational fishing experience for generations to come.

Since 2010, the Agency has taken substantial action toward improving its response to anglers' needs while maintaining sustainable fishery resources. However, there is still much to be done. To that end, the Agency, in conjunction with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, conducted a second Recreational Saltwater Fisheries Summit in 2014 (Summit). MAKERS was contracted to help plan, facilitate, and summarize the event, ensure all perspectives were heard, and conversations were focused and productive.

In the words of one Summit participant, "Since 2010, we have worked to turn this ship around. Now we must move it forward toward a more specific destination."

Objectives

The Summit's objectives were to:

- generate input for consideration in the next National Action Agenda,
- strengthen open lines of communication,
- highlight the most important challenges facing anglers in order to develop collaborative solutions, and
- develop a framework of activities to improve management of saltwater recreational fishing.

While the 2010 Summit focused on better communication and understanding between the Agency and the Community, the 2014 Summit identified collaborative activities to strengthen healthy fisheries, improve angler satisfaction, better obtain and use scientific data, and strengthen partnerships.

Approximately 89 Community members and 55 Agency staff participated in the Summit, representing all geographic regions and sectors of the Community. Summit participants are identified on page 125.

Pre-Summit Survey

Prior to the Summit, MAKERS distributed a survey to Community and Agency invitees. The survey reflected perspectives regarding current recreational fishing conditions, challenges, and opportunities as well as progress in recreational fisheries management since the 2010 Summit. Responses helped to refine the 2014 Summit agenda. Results are included as Appendix B.

Generally, survey respondents acknowledged that the Agency has taken substantial strides toward a greater understanding of Community concerns. Participants noted that the Agency has achieved many of the 2010 Action Agenda goals, most notably an improved communication, a more responsive attitude toward recreational fishing concerns, and an improved institutional orientation toward recreational fishing values. But while the quality of the relationship and discussion between the Agency and the Community has greatly improved, the survey results indicated that many Summit participants believe that the fundamental management policies related to saltwater recreational fishing and actual on-the-water recreational fishing experience have not.

Recreational fishing has been a big part of my agenda during my first 90 days. So far I have heard about areas in need of improvement, but I have also heard many positive things about progress made.

The Pre-Summit Survey results showed that though NOAA delivered on our committments from the first Summit, anglers remain frustrated at not seeing the on-the-water-rewards.

Our goal for this Summit is to plot the next leg of the course and create good markers to help us stay that course. Only by working together will we realize lasting benefits that ensure saltwater recreational fishing continues as a great American pastime, economic force, and contributor to conservation.

—Edited excerpt from Eileen Sobeck's opening remarks

Number of Survey Respondents by Affiliation

The Agency's work on recreational issues is similar to a long ride out to a good fishing spot; sometimes it is smooth sailing, and other times the weather is rough.

However, with our trusty GPS—the input and guidance from the Community—we have a pretty good idea of where we want to go and how to get there.

Unfortunately, occasional navigational hazards still appear—unexpected changes in the status of the resource, litigation, etc. Nevertheless, our destination remains clear; robust, sustainable fisheries with ample opportunity to get out on the water and make use of the resource.

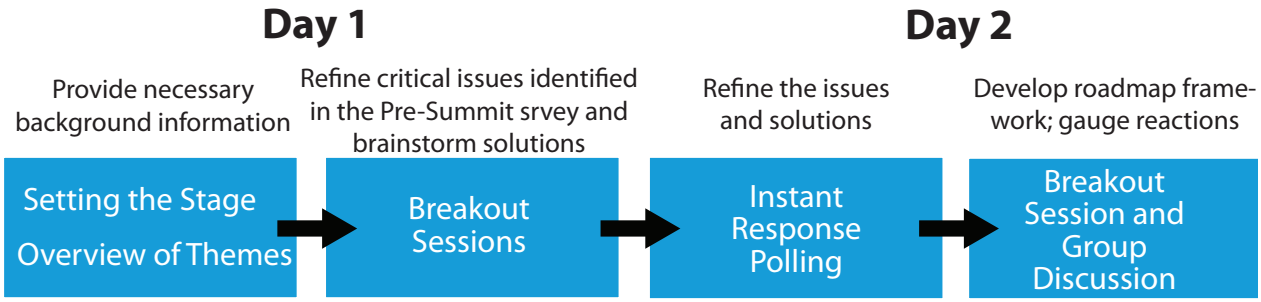
—Edited excerpt from Russ Dunn's welcome speech

Summary of Activities

In response to the survey results, the Summit focused on five core topics, which are reflected as the five sections of Chapter 2 in this document:

- Angler Satisfaction,
- Healthy Recreational Fisheries,
- Science and Data,
- Successful Relationships, and
- Regional Engagement and Collaboration.

For each topic, participants identified the challenges hindering improved fisheries and fishing opportunities, solutions to overcome those hurdles, and collaborative Agency/Community efforts to achieve mutual objectives. The diagram below illustrates how the Summit activities progressed from identifying issues and potential solutions to refining the solutions and translating them into activities for consideration in the Action Agenda. The full program can be found in Appendix C.



Generalized sequence of Summit activities

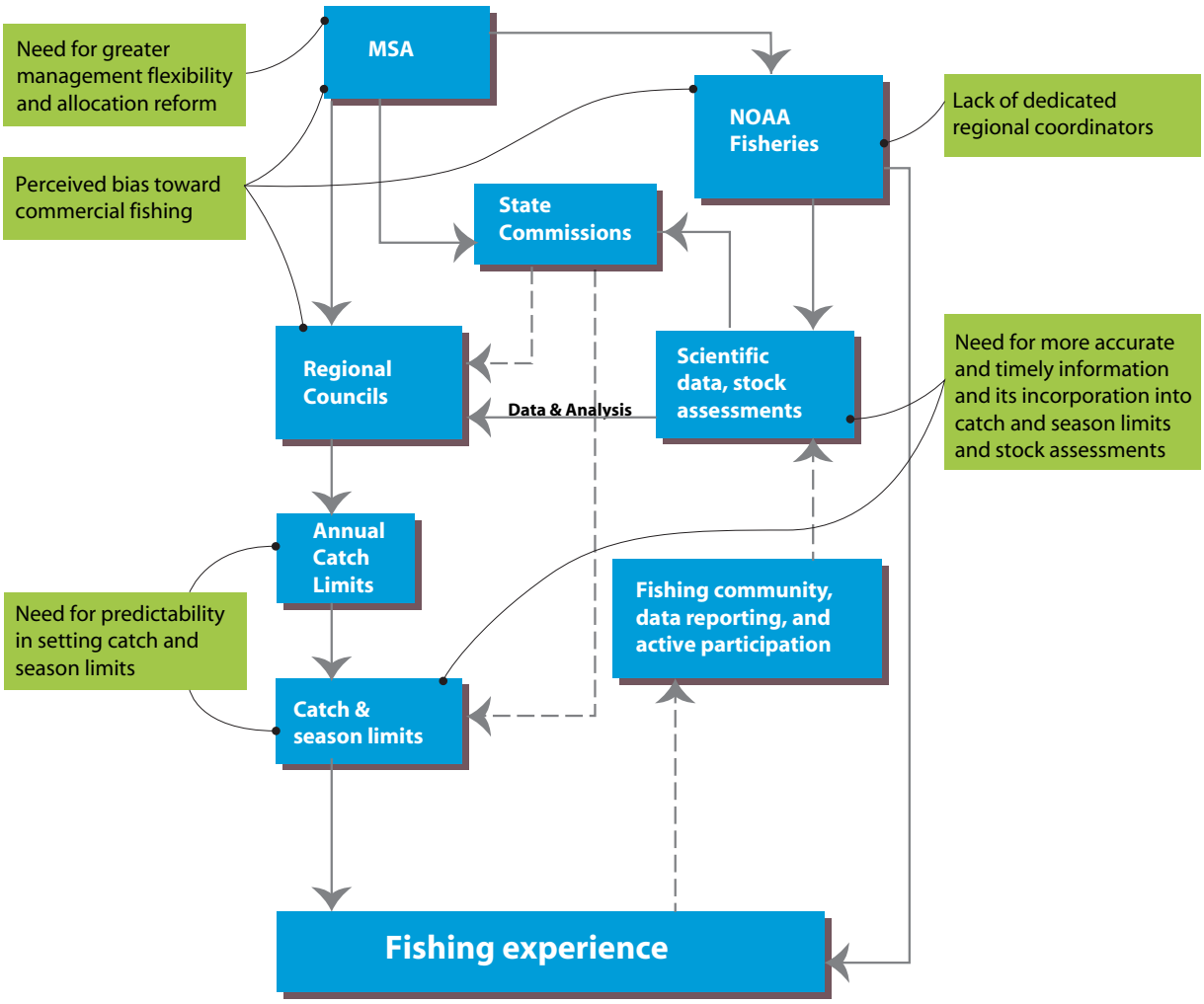
Summit Results

Overall themes that emerged from Summit discussions are summarized on the following pages. Detailed outcomes of each breakout session are included in Chapter 2, Challenges and Actions.

The graphics below and on the facing page illustrate recreational fisheries management and indicate where primary challenges and activities identified in the Summit affect various activities. Although these diagrams present a simplified picture of fisheries management activities, they illustrate where specific challenges and activities might fit within the management framework.

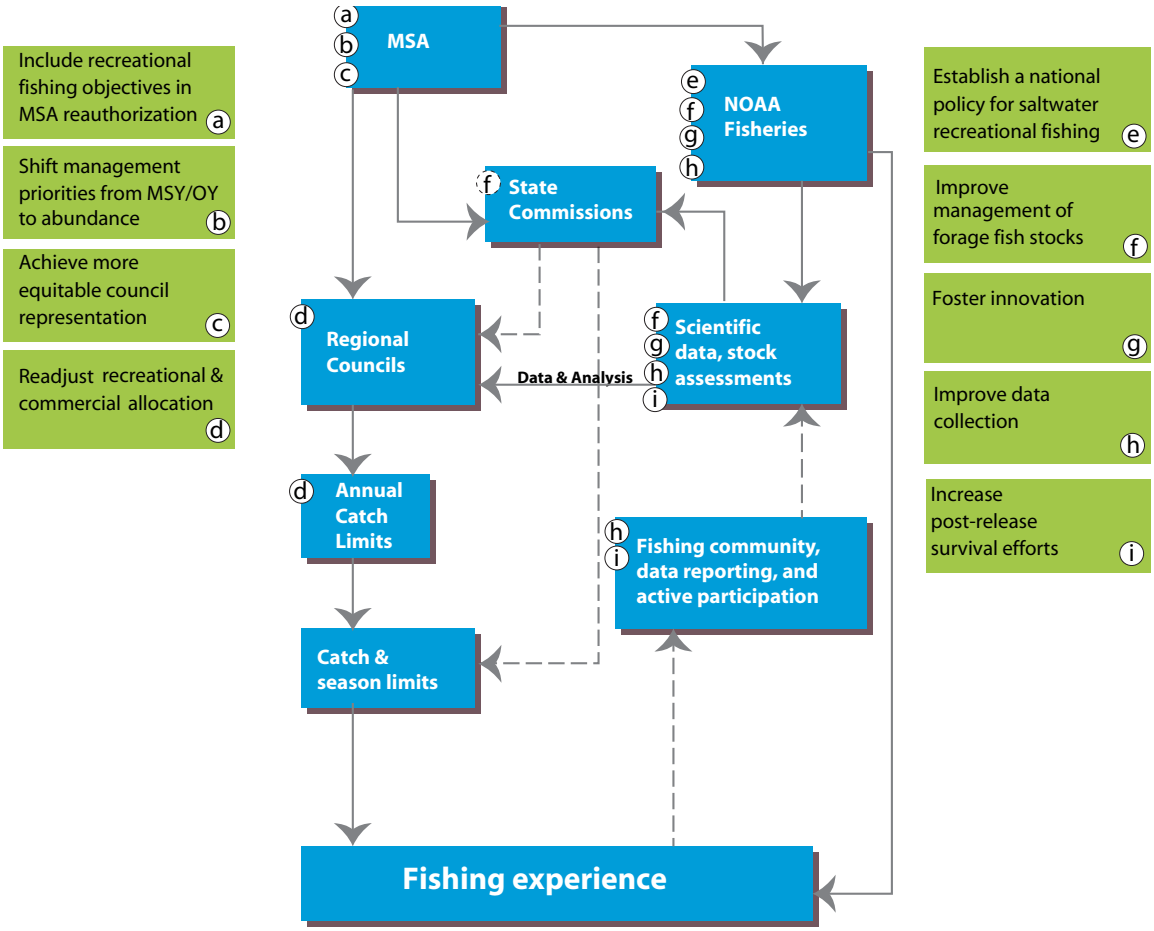
The boxes represent participants or steps in the management process. The arrows indicate flow of information, and the notes with leaders are the principal challenges and actions identified in the Summit.

MOST IMPORTANT CHALLENGES FACING SALTWATER RECREATIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT



The Agency will consider these issues and a wide range of inputs, including the recommendations from the Morris-Deal Commission Report, and the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC) Recreational Fisheries Working Group White Paper when developing its new Action Agenda.

TEN HIGHEST PRIORITY RECOMMENDED ACTIONS TO IMPROVE SALTWATER RECREATIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT



Priority Challenges

The highest priority challenges identified by participants were (in no particular order):

Continuing bias toward commercial fishing. Despite efforts over the past 4 years, the Community still feels that the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA), the make-up of regional Councils, management policies and metrics, and catch allocation favor commercial fisheries over recreational fisheries.

Lack of coordination and communication at the regional level. Participants advocated for better collaboration with state governments and more resources dedicated to regionally-based outreach.

Need for greater accuracy, timeliness, and use of scientific data. Participants noted that the Community lacks trust in the Agency's scientific data and feels that it is not produced quickly enough to provide timely direction in setting catch limits and season restrictions.

The need for both flexibility and predictability in setting catch limits and season restrictions. The fishing experience would be greatly enhanced if these two seemingly conflicting objectives could be achieved. Anglers expressed the need for predictability regarding season limits so that they can plan trips, but that they would also benefit from management practices which expand catch limits and fishing opportunities when current data indicates that fishing stocks are unexpectedly robust.

The biggest news to come from the Summit was the fact that the Agency will develop a national recreational saltwater fishing policy to broadly guide Agency actions and better integrate recreational fishing within its mission. As of September 2014, the Agency has made substantial progress toward this goal.

Proposed Strategies

During the second day, Summit participants proposed a number of solutions for these challenges and used instant response polling to prioritize activities. Then through a final set of breakout sessions, they brainstormed possible steps to initiate the activities. These strategies are summarized below and are discussed in more detail in Chapter 3, Activities Road Map.

Establish a national policy for Saltwater Recreational Fisheries. Based on general participant reaction, this action appeared to be an immediate priority. As framed by the participants, the proposed policy would recognize:

- the economic and social importance of recreational fishing,
- the need for equitable allocation of public resources,
- the value of greater Community participation in decision-making, and
- the benefits of more flexible and effective management practices.

Shift Agency management practices from a quota or Annual Catch Limit (ACL) basis to one focused on mortality rate or other biological reference points that better support robust recreational fisheries. Steps to achieve this include:

- communicating success stories of effective alternate management measures,
- identifying species for which alternate approaches would work best,
- establishing pilot programs to test new techniques, and
- developing a monitoring program to test their effectiveness.

The Morris-Deal Commission recommends that the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act include the following elements:

- A national policy for recreational fishing
- A revised approach to saltwater recreational fisheries management that promotes both conservation and access
- Allocation of marine fisheries for the greatest benefit to the nation
- Reasonable latitude in stock rebuilding timelines
- A process for cooperative management
- Managing for the forage base

—Summarized excerpt from Scott Deal

Review recreational and commercial allocation processes. A revised allocation method might include:

- top-down guidance from NOAA to ensure a transparent Council decision process,
- a schedule for routine reviews of allocation schemes and levels,
- the use of "best available science",
- prioritization of species by the importance to the recreational community, and
- consideration of market-based solutions.

Include Community objectives in the MSA reauthorization. Suggestions for amendments include:

- giving managers greater flexibility in meeting management objectives (e.g., species mortality rates instead of quotas);
- incorporating new recreational fishing information and recent work (e.g., Morris Deal commission report, MAFAC paper, etc.);
- incorporating greater flexibility regarding rebuilding timelines and mandating a national policy on saltwater recreational fishing;
- empowering states to protect and restore habitat; and
- establishing timelines for revisiting allocation.

Foster innovation, perhaps through new policy language. Measures for the Agency and Community to promote new management practices, scientific techniques, gear types, etc. include:

- providing better communication and information to the Community regarding new conservation techniques (e.g., barotrauma); and
- creating an office for innovation within NOAA Fisheries to coordinate activities, secure resources, and coordinate with partners (e.g., Sea Grant).

Achieve more equitable Council representation. The primary means to accomplish this would be to insert new language into the MSA that encourages diverse representation on the Councils.

Increase intergovernmental collaboration. Steps toward achieving this objective include:

- inviting state directors to the next Summit;
- having Agency coordinators attend state agency and commission meetings;
- increasing collaboration and input from states and commissions on national and regional NOAA saltwater recreational fishing activities action agendas;
- identifying key opportunities for collaboration (e.g., Marine Recreational Information Program [MRIP], habitat, forage fish); and
- communicating examples of successful collaboration.

Increase post-release mortality program efforts. Collaborative Community/Agency measures to enhance this program include:

- cooperative research and testing with a regional perspective to demonstrate tangible benefits,
- increasing outreach information regarding best practices for releasing fish,
- industry partnership action toward equipping all for-hire vessels with descenders,
- promoting a broader perspective regarding survivability (not just barotrauma), and
- encouraging Councils to incentivize demonstrated survivability improvement with greater fishing access.

Improve management of forage fish stocks. To enhance forage fish stocks, the Agency should:

- make Councils and the Community more aware of forage fish needs,
- clearly define critical forage fish species,
- prioritize adoption of Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) for key forage species,
- establish forage fish management regulations that ensure conservation of forage stocks and their availability to predators, and
- strengthen MSA language to address the importance of forage fish in maintaining marine ecosystems and healthy fisheries.

Improve data collection. Suggested means include:

- account for the diversity of fisheries and species in data collection and analysis;
- identify the data needs of all stakeholders including state and federal agencies, non-government organizations (NGOs), anglers, scientists, academic institutions and Councils;
- establish standards for developing, storing, and communicating data that is accessible, transparent, and consistent; and
- define the role and uses of self-reported data.

Summit recommendations are generally consistent with the recommendations of the MAFAC Recreational Fisheries Working Group White Paper, which includes:

- Improved data
- New management tools appropriate for recreational fishing
- Focus on rebuilding stocks
- Cooperative research
- Sensible allocation
- Increased flexibility

—Summarized excerpt from Craig Severance

THE REAL WORK BEGINS AFTER WE GET NOAA FISHERIES TO SAY YES!

—Quote from John Brownlee about the national policy from the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership Blog

Chapter Two
CHALLENGES AND ACTIONS

Angler Satisfaction

Synopsis of Introductory Remarks

ALTERNATIVE MANAGEMENT FOR RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

Dick Brame, Coastal Conservation Association

Recreational and commercial fisheries are fundamentally different activities. The basic motivations for each are entirely different. The commercial fishery is motivated primarily by profit; the recreational fishery is motivated by the desire to be outdoors, with friends. The key to fostering a recreational fishery is abundance.

Recreational fisheries respond to the current abundance. As it increases, the recreational effort and catch will usually increase. Unlike the commercial fishery, harvest is not directly controlled and estimating catch is usually done at least 2 months after the fact, making quota monitoring difficult at best.

Yet we currently use the same tools to manage commercial and recreational fisheries. The Magnuson–Stevens Act created a very good commercial fishing management regime. What is needed now is a new paradigm – a system that allows the recreational catch to adjust to changing populations.

Managing to an allowable fishing rate is one alternative, similar to how Striped Bass are managed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Two phenomena drive recreational fishing effort to increase:

1. Increase in fish population - As abundance increases so does effort. Current ACL management has created nonsensical outcomes – if population is doing well and effort increases, the ACL (usually based on several years old projections) is exceeded, which makes the recreational fishery the bad guy and unaccountable. Alternatively, if the population is declining and ACL is not met, all is thought to be well.

2. Panic fishing brought on by severely shortened season or threatened closures. This is currently a poorly understood phenomenon. The primary cause is uncertainty in regulations.

In my opinion, what we need is a management regime that does these things:

1. Has conservation of the fishery resource as the primary goal,

2. Has stable regulations, and

3. Allows the recreational fishery to increase or decrease with the fishery population.

MANAGING FOR ANGLING SATISFACTION

Alan D. Risenhoover, NOAA Fisheries

The goal of the "Managing for Angling Satisfaction" session is to develop potential options for better matching management actions with outcomes that improve angler satisfaction. First, we need to think very carefully of what our goal is specifically and how we reach that goal. Recently, NOAA Fisheries has quantified some of the outcomes associated with marine recreational fishing. Based on these results: Do we try to maximize number of trips? Or maximize the number of anglers? The number of fish caught? Is the goal to increase sales of tackle? What about jobs and income? Is our goal to increase them as well? How do these measures – number of anglers, number of trips, number of fish caught, etc. relate directly to satisfaction?

Last year NOAA Fisheries published the results of a National Saltwater Angler Survey. Over 9,000 recreational fishermen responded to the survey. Fishing with family and friends and catching fish were rated highly. However, aspects like catching a trophy or eating fish or catching the limit were rated much lower. Over 80% indicated catching fish was important, but not trophy sized fish or fish to eat or even the bag limit.

Once we've identified our goal, how can we implement it? Remember it must be done in the context of the MSA's 10 national standards. In particular, the MSA established clear direction on ending overfishing through the establishment of ACLs. NOAA Fisheries issued guidelines for National Standard 1, including ACLs. But, we're always looking for opportunities to improve. We learned a number of things while going through the process of implementing ACLs and Accountability Measures (AMs) for the first time, and are now in the process of revising NS1 guidelines to better address the mandate while providing needed flexibility in the wide diversity of federal fisheries.

Challenges

OVERARCHING THEMES

Need for a tailored management approach. Many challenges below, particularly the top two, fall under the overarching theme that a universal management approach is not serving recreational fisheries well. The perception is that the Agency's traditional focus and Council orientation favor commercial fisheries (Challenge E), resulting in problematic regulations and procedures for noncommercial fishing (Challenge B). Participants called for a more nuanced approach to simultaneously achieve greater predictability (Challenge A) and more appropriate management (Challenge B, F, and J).

Complexity of fisheries management. Participants recognize that fisheries management, especially when considering the varied nature of recreational fishers (Challenge K) and their behavior (Challenge J), is extremely difficult and complicated. They pointed to a strong need for more resources and better tools (Challenge D) and an "all-hands-on-

deck" approach among agencies and related organizations to sync efforts (Challenge G), gather, process, and utilize data more quickly (Challenge H), and receive accurate and complete catch reporting (Challenge I).

Need for a more robust two-way conversation. Because of the unique and complex nature of recreational fisheries management, participants honed in on the need for better communication to increase their understanding of the management system, rules, and rationales, to build trust around the management approach (also see the first Science and Data overarching theme), and improve catch reporting. They saw a need for more meaningful dialogue at the grassroots level in particular, while acknowledging the difficulty in reaching the general angling population.

TOP CHALLENGES

The following challenges emerged from breakout group discussions on angler satisfaction and were scored by polling Community participants. They are listed in order of their "importance to address score".

Challenge Score: 1= Not important to address; 5=Critically important to address	**Importance to Address Score**
A. Lack of predictable allocations, seasons, and regulations. Participants, echoing Dick Brame's presentation on fishers' reactions to changing rules, ranked the lack of predictability and consistency for year-to-year allocations, season length, and rules and regulations as the greatest challenge to their satisfaction.	4.2
B. Need for more responsive management approaches. Nearly every breakout table raised one or more issues with current management approaches, including: • managing poundage rather than number of fish or mortality rates (this was mentioned most often), • managing for trophy fish rather than number of encounters, • managing without considering overall economic impact to recreational fishing, • managing with inadequate valuation of the cultural aspects of fishing, • not allowing allocations to transfer between sectors, • limited flexibility in applying different approaches to different circumstances (e.g., abundance versus stock structure), and • failing to consider changing allocations under a status quo system burdened with inertia.	4.0
C. Need to improve communication between anglers and management. Raised by half of the groups, this challenge involves two-way communication regarding: • the rules and the rationale behind them, • MSA requirements and the management process, and • relevant fisheries management issues. In particular, three groups mentioned the need for more robust venues and processes for getting truly representative feedback from the general fishing community (as opposed to those regularly involved with the Councils) at the grassroots level (e.g., train fishermen to train fishermen, surveys at ground level, and Agency column in popular publication).	3.9

Challenge Score: 1= Not important to address; 5=Critically important to address	Importance to Address Score
D. Inadequate tools and resources for collecting and using data. Multiple groups recognized the difficulty in performing and inadequate funding for: • real-time quota monitoring, • stock assessments, and • habitat assessments.	3.9
E. Some Council composition which under-represents recreational fishing. Participants see the Councils as not representing recreational fishing interests.	3.8
F. Inappropriate ACLs. Similar to Challenge B above, participants noted that the mandated management tools, in particular ACLs, are inappropriate for recreational fishing and need greater flexibility.	3.6
G. Inconsistent cooperation between states and federal agencies. Two groups noted the challenge of unifying efforts and information from varying agencies and organizations.	3.5
H. Time-lag in the management response to changing conditions. Participants noted the need for timely data collection and assessments and quicker procedures for updating catch and season limits.	3.5
I. Difficulty in monitoring the recreational quota. One group noted that there is little accountability in catch reporting, making it extremely difficult to gather accurate and complete information, especially for highly migratory species. This also relates to the lack of meaningful feedback issue raised in Challenge C.	3.5
J. Difficulty of managing the dynamic relationship between stock abundance and angler behavior. In particular, one group noted that when fish stock is expanding, angler behavior adapts quickly to abundance, so mismanagement of recreational fishing is likely.	3.2
K. Need to manage sectors differently. The Community encompasses a wide array of fishing sectors (e.g., shoreline, small boat, and charters), and participants remarked that their management should not be "one-size-fits-all."	3.1

OTHER CHALLENGES

Other challenges identified during the Summit include:

- a general distrust of managers;
- limited access to fishing grounds due to physical barriers (e.g., channels which have silted in);
- Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) being a challenge to recreational fishing because of a lack of tailored science to justify closures or gear restrictions, and a lack of an adaptive management approach that would allow the boundaries to change; and
- a perception that there is too much process and not enough action.

Participants' Suggested Actions

OVERARCHING THEMES

Improved management approach. A prevalent theme is the desire for recreational fishing management to better support access to non-commercial fishing opportunities, predictable seasons and catch limits, and regional nuances. To accomplish this, participants asked for a national policy (Action B) and a new management approach (Actions F and L) specific to recreational fishing. Likewise, to support better management and decision-making, they recognize that better data and analysis (Actions I, M, N, K, and E) are needed.

Fair allocations. A second theme raised in the top scoring actions is for catch allocations to more fairly accommodate recreational fisheries. Participants believe that if Councils understand the full economic and social importance of non-commercial fishing (Action A below), they will be able to make better-informed decisions about fishery allocations. Likewise, formal and regular review of allocations (Action J) would allow more timely use of new scientific data and increase the ability for recreational fishers to provide input into the process.

Communication and outreach. Participants would like to better understand the rationale behind management decisions and more opportunities to be involved (Action C). They appreciate the work that has been done to engage recreational fishers (e.g., the angler perception survey) and encourage management to use that information and continue reaching out in that way (Actions D and G). A specific suggestion is to use the regional and state venues for improving communication with recreational fishers (Action H).

TOP SUGGESTED ACTIONS

The following suggested actions emerged from breakout group discussions on angler satisfaction and were scored by polling the Community and management participants. Different groups' related ideas and issues are noted under each action. The actions are listed in order of their "Average Score"—the average of the benefit and feasibility scores, as determined by Summit participants.

Action Benefit score: 1=Not beneficial at all; 5=Extremely beneficial Feasibility Score: 1=Not feasible at all; 5=Extremely feasible Average score: Average of benefit and feasibility scores Chapter 3 Activity #: Related activities number in following section	**Benefit Score**	**Feasibility Score**	**Average score**	**Chapter 3 Activity #**
A. Communicate the economic and social importance of recreational fishing. The most important action for participant satisfaction is to convey a cohesive message about the significance of recreational fishing. In addition, they believe managers should be required to consider the social and economic value of non-commercial fishing when making allocation decisions.	4.3	4.1	4.20	3
B. Establish a national policy that distinguishes recreational fishing from commercial fishing in order to: • ensure access to recreational fishing opportunities, • maximize predictability in seasons and allocations, • allow flexibility for addressing regional differences while maintaining state/federal consistency at the policy level, • recognize recreational fishing's economic importance, and • acknowledge the differing objectives and needs of recreational and commercial fishing.	4.2	3.7	3.95	1
C. Enhance collaboration with Agency regional offices and science centers. Improved outreach and communication, including more local community meetings, is strongly desired to: • better explain the rationale behind management actions; • clearly articulate the relationships between regulations and goals at the national, regional, and local levels; • encourage angler accountability; and • communicate opportunities for fishers to be involved in the management process. This action also relates to Action H below to utilize the state and regional-level management structures to reach fishers through channels more familiar to them.	3.9	4.0	3.95	7
D. Present angler perception survey results to the Council Coordination Committee (CCC). Participants value the results of the angler attitudes and perceptions survey and encourage the CCC to implement the survey results' identified actions.	3.3	4.4	3.85	
E. Use the most up-to-date technology for catch accounting and accountability. Groups suggested that technology could be used more appropriately for better results.	4.2	3.4	3.80	5 10

Action Benefit score: 1=Not beneficial at all; 5=Extremely beneficial Feasibility Score: 1=Not feasible at all; 5=Extremely feasible Average score: Average of benefit and feasibility scores Chapter 3 Activity #: Related activities number in following section	**Benefit Score**	**Feasibility Score**	**Average score**	**Chapter 3 Activity #**
F. Manage for abundance, harvest or extraction rate, age, stock structure, or other measures rather than maximum sustainable yield (MSY). Groups are interested in seeing the MSA reauthorized to accommodate a different goal for management. They often suggested looking to state methods of managing freshwater and terrestrial game as a more appropriate approach for recreational fishing.	4.1	3.3	3.70	2 4 7
G. Continue surveying fishers to identify concerns and define "satisfaction". Participants appreciated the recent surveys and encourage management to continue asking them these kinds of questions to better understand their needs and desires for the on-the-water experience.	3.6	6.7	3.65	
H. Provide for greater regional and state management opportunities. Groups saw states and regional level management as having greater communication access and understanding of anglers. They suggested utilizing these existing relationships to: • ensure that regional nuances are not lost in a national policy, and • more efficiently send and receive information to and from anglers.				7
I. Develop better mortality estimates. One group suggested improving mortality estimates (e.g., tagging studies) to enable a mortality rates approach to management.	3.8	3.4	3.60	8
J. Establish a formal and regular reallocation review process. Participants hope to see Councils held to a regular timeframe for reviewing and updating allocations. A formal process with fixed intervals would allow recreational fishers to regularly weigh in on the fairness and equity of proposed allocations.	4.0	3.1	3.55	3
K. Validate data. Related to the distrust of data identified in the Data and Science breakout session, participants suggest developing a method to verify recreational fishery data by working with academia and/or requiring for-hire, federally-permitted fleets to submit their data. This data is important to fishers to better inform the Councils' allocation decisions.	3.6	3.1	3.35	10
L. Allow for maximum economic yield (MEY) as a management goal. One group explicitly suggested developing standards for allocation that consider social and economic factors, and many discussed this in a more general way in the top-rated Action A above.	3.4	3.0	3.20	3 4

Action Benefit score: 1=Not beneficial at all; 5=Extremely beneficial Feasibility Score: 1=Not feasible at all; 5=Extremely feasible Average score: Average of benefit and feasibility scores Chapter 3 Activity #: Related activities number in following section	**Benefit Score**	**Feasibility Score**	**Average score**	**Chapter 3 Activity #**
M. Contribute contextual and anecdotal data to Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) to include in the Available Biological Catch (ABC) consideration. Establish advisory panels to solidify this communication channel. Also see Action K above regarding data validation. These two actions respond to the challenge that fishers perceive a mismatch between the data and their experience on-the-water.	2.9	3.2	3.05	10
N. Fund stock assessments through public/private partnerships and by lobbying for funding. This is important for better informing management decisions.	3.3	2.6	2.95	

OTHER ACTIONS

Other actions identified during the Summit include:

- reviewing Council representation (discussed in multiple breakout sessions),
- finding and using the existing flexibility in the MSA, and
- evaluating and grading managers on the ability to improve and enhance recreational fisheries.

Healthy Recreational Fisheries

Synopsis of Introductory Remarks

HEALTHY RECREATIONAL FISHERIES FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

Dan Wolford, Pacific Fishery Management Council

As recreational fisheries and populations of fish have changed over the years, fishery management regulations have become more complex and constraining. We need to think about what kind of fisheries we want for our children. Sustainable fishing practices are key, and we need to be their champion. Fishery managers and the fishing community must support tough, science-based regulations, embrace an on-the-water fishing ethic, seek out opportunities to enhance fisheries, and advocate for sustainable commercial and recreational practices.

We must have a long-term perspective, support science based regulations, and advocate efforts to ensure the health of the habitat our target fish depend on. A major part of that habitat is a healthy forage fish base.

Recreational fishermen have historically embraced a conservation ethic. We need to sustain that tradition by identifying ways to enhance our fisheries by being proactive in issues like science based hatchery management, developing of selective gear types, and by educating the general fishing public. A good example of a bottoms-up recreational initiative is found in the initiative to enhance the survivability of released bottom fish suffering from the effects of barotrauma. This has now gained national momentum and is being incorporated into the management science of the Regional Fishery Management Councils.

The quality of the sport will continue for generations to come if we make sustainable fishing practices part of our everyday routine.

THE IMPORTANCE OF HABITAT

Brian Pawlak, NOAA Fisheries

The most basic component of healthy recreational fisheries for today, tomorrow, and thriving coastal economies is the habitat which supports them. NOAA Fisheries and the recreational fishing community share a common objective of conserving and enhancing marine and coastal habitats. Recreational anglers have been engaged in habitat conservation projects in support of recreational fisheries for years, and in the 2013 National Saltwater Angler Survey, a strong majority of the recreational fishing community expressed support of habitat conservation efforts.

As we continue to address difficult management questions about allocation and science and data needs to support stock assessments, collectively we must not lose sight of the role healthy habitats have in addressing the needs of the saltwater recreational fishing community. According to the most recent Status and Trends of Wetlands in Coastal Watersheds of the Conterminous United States (2004-2009), coastal wetlands are lost at an average rate of 80,000 acres a year (that's 7 football fields every hour), a rate that is 20,000 acres a year greater than the previous study period. On the East Coast, only 27% of historic habitat is accessible to American shad and river herring, two important species in the ecosystem. While not positive facts, these statistics and trends offer us an opportunity to collaborate to address fish habitat loss together. Recognizing the need to manage differently and co-management management opportunities, habitat can be the foundation from which we work. We all want to see healthy recreational fisheries today and into the future, and it's clear that habitat must be an integral part of meeting that obtainable goal. Integrating habitat conservation into recreational fisheries management will allow us to ultimately provide for healthy fisheries now and into the future.

Challenges

OVERARCHING THEMES

Need for effective ecosystem management. Managing specific stocks of fish rather than the full ecosystem is not adequately supporting healthy fisheries. Groups looked holistically at the fisheries' ecosystems to point out problems outside of the managed stocks, especially in regard to:

- A lack of forage fish protection (Challenge A, with the highest score), and
- Habitat degradation due to a host of inland and on-water actions (Challenge B, with the second highest score). Similarly, participants noted that the lack of a unified effort from federal and state agencies to regulate inland, coastal, and in-water activities is hindering habitat protection and restoration (Challenge D).

Lack of communication and outreach. A secondary theme is that a lack of communication (Challenge C) is holding back progress toward healthy fisheries. In particular, groups thought that information regarding the best catch and release methods (also see Challenge E), as well as habitat functions and issues (also see Challenge B), was not disseminated widely enough.

Community stewardship activities. Anglers have been active in fisheries stewardship efforts such as catch-and-release fishing, habitat conservation, and post-release survival techniques. This willingness to participate in conservation activities should be incorporated into management programs by identifying other ways the Community can assist in creating healthier fisheries.

TOP CHALLENGES

The following challenges emerged from breakout group discussions on healthy recreational fisheries and were scored by polling all the Community participants. They are listed in order of their "importance to address score". Different groups' related ideas and issues are noted under each challenge.

Challenge Score: 1=Not important to address; 5=Critically important to address	**Importance to Address Score**
A. Sup-optimal health of the forage base. Most tables noted the importance of forage fish in the food web and the impact on water quality. They suggested that the current management system does not adequately protect forage fish for the overall health of the ecosystem. In addition, data and information on the role of forage fish is inadequate for full ecosystem management.	4.2
B. Habitat loss. Habitat loss was recognized as a major challenge for the following reasons: • existing protections are not working; • restoration and enhancement lack support; • state permitting is causing coastal losses; • inland water quality (e.g., Mississippi River dead zone, Indian River lagoon, Chesapeake Bay, polluted water run-off, etc.) is poor; • removal of oil rigs is disturbing habitat; • the potential of artificial reefs is not being adequately explored (perhaps due to an agency focus on aggregation and not fish creation); • spawning areas are not receiving enough protection; and • data is lacking.	4.0
C. Communication, outreach, and education issues. A number of tables brought up education needs, especially regarding catch and release methods and habitat functions. One group also noted the participation base is smaller than it should be, and may be hindered by a lack of outreach.	4.0
D. Lack of federal/state coordination regarding habitat. Some groups mentioned the difficulty in unifying efforts across inland, coastal, and in-water activities to restore and protect habitat and water quality.	3.8
E. Post-release mortality. Improper handling and post-release mortality was another concern, including a lack of: • communication about best practices at the Council or individual angler level (including the recent barotrauma work), • scientific evidence that release methods work, and • the release of highly fecund fish.	3.7
F. Ecosystem-based management. Many groups raised issues around forage fish (Challenge A above), but some also brought up more general statements about the lack of ecosystem-based management and understanding of various ecosystem elements' interactions.	3.4

OTHER CHALLENGES

Other challenges identified during the Summit include:

- aquaculture threats to wild stocks, and
- recruitment of future anglers is needed to carry this work forward.

Participants' Suggested Actions

OVERARCHING THEMES

Break down ecosystems into understandable pieces to manage holistically. Despite ecosystem-based management's (Action E's) relatively low feasibility score, the habitat (Action A) and forage fish (Action C) actions that address specific ecosystem elements were incredibly well received. When groups focused on one piece of the whole, they were able to dig into the issue, offer a host of actions, and rank the ideas highly for both benefit and feasibility. For both habitat and forage fish, many of the actions suggest an integrated approach to managing fisheries that considers the whole ecosystem.

Improve post-release survival. Improving post-release survival (Action B) was another major consensus item. The presentation on barotrauma provided participants with tangible actions and clear results of using descender devices. This may have helped to put best catch-and-release practices at the forefront of group conversations and provided the information needed for participants to support the idea.

TOP SUGGESTED ACTIONS

The following actions emerged from breakout group discussions on healthy recreational fisheries and were scored by polling the fishing community and management participants. Different groups' related ideas and issues are noted under each action. The actions are listed in order of their "Average Score"—the average of the benefit and feasibility scores, as determined by Summit participants.

Action Benefit Score: 1=Not beneficial at all; 5=Extremely beneficial Feasibility Score: 1=Not feasible at all; 5=Extremely feasible Average Score: Average of benefit and feasibility scores Chapter 3 Activity#: Related activities number in following section	**Benefit Score**	**Feasibility Score**	**Average score**	**Chapter 3 Activity #**
A. Conserve, enhance, and restore habitat. Nearly every group had multiple ideas about healthy habitats, including: • Reduce runoff, pollution, and other inland activities impacting the water quality of streams, rivers, wetlands, and other fresh water inflows through programs such as Coastal Zone Management (CZM). Raise state and public awareness about water quality issues. • Give teeth to federal policies (e.g., National Fish Habitat Action Plan, Essential Fish Habitat [EFH], MSA reauthorization) and advocate for stronger fisheries and habitat conservation mandates to unify the fractured regulatory environment. • Formalize the Rigs to Reefs program and do more cooperative research to understand and create artificial structures. • Improve coordination between state and federal efforts, as well as across regions. • Identify issues and commit funds to set an example for and leverage resources from other agencies (e.g., states, fishing industry, and environmental groups). • Communicate the ecological and economic value of healthy habitats. • Inventory habitats and compare with historic data. • Eliminate gear types that destroy habitat.	4.4	3.5	3.95	
B. Improve post-release survival. The bulk of breakout groups mentioned ideas around identifying and educating about best practices, including: • promote best catch and release practices (e.g., descending devices and circle hooks) through the communication strategies mentioned in Action D; • encourage Councils to give credit and incentives for practicing the best catch and release methods; • invest in research to identify other best practices, develop new technologies, understand survival rates, and continue existing projects (e.g., barotrauma); and • equip for-hire vessels (e.g., charter boats and head boats) with descending devices in critical regions during particular seasons.	4.1	3.8	3.95	8

Action Benefit Score: 1=Not beneficial at all; 5=Extremely beneficial Feasibility Score: 1=Not feasible at all; 5=Extremely feasible Average Score: Average of benefit and feasibility scores Chapter 3 Activity#: Related activities number in following section	**Benefit Score**	**Feasibility Score**	**Average score**	**Chapter 3 Activity #**
C. Manage to protect forage fish. Most groups independently raised actions regarding forage fish. There is some overlap with the ecosystems-based management Action E. Ideas include: • Use an ecosystem-based approach to integrate forage fish management with target species management. Identify forage for every managed fish stock and determine if and how the forage fish stock should be managed. This plays out in two ways: o account for forage fish stocks levels when setting harvest rates for target species, and o establish quotas for forage fish species (e.g., no more than 10% harvest or a 20% conservation buffer off the ACL). • Assess the economic implications of potential management strategies (e.g., is forage fish more valuable as forage, bait, or fishmeal?). • Research ways to protect and conserve forage fish, especially regarding trophic levels and alternate feed options for hatcheries and aquaculture.	4.2	3.6	3.90	9
D. Improve communication strategies. Some groups referred to communication strategies in regard to disseminating information about post-release survival best practices, as well as offering ways to make the information more meaningful, such as: • better informing the Community (especially in regard to post-release survival best practices). Use short videos, social media, mobile apps, fleet trainings, and trusted information outlets, such as management websites, trade associations, and TV programs; • telling better stories and limiting technical reports to entice the community to want to understand the information; • considering multicultural and multilingual audiences; • providing a comprehensive mobile app for all NOAA efforts (e.g., weather, tides, fisheries management, etc.); and • linking angler licensing to education tools.	3.9	3.8	3.85	

Action Benefit Score: 1=Not beneficial at all; 5=Extremely beneficial Feasibility Score: 1=Not feasible at all; 5=Extremely feasible Average Score: Average of benefit and feasibility scores Chapter 3 Activity#: Related activities number in following section	**Benefit Score**	**Feasibility Score**	**Average score**	**Chapter 3 Activity #**
E. Transition to ecosystem management. Many groups raised ideas about ecosystems-based management, especially in regards to forage fish (see Action C above). Their ideas include: • providing more funding and support for ecosystem-based management; • establishing ecologically-based catch targets; • better understanding of species interactions; • moving toward regional ecosystem plans; and • researching invasive species impacts, intersections, and control methods.	3.6	2.4	3.00	

OTHER ACTIONS

Other actions identified during the Summit include:

- managing for lower harvest rates instead of MSY for better conservation and higher interaction rates (see related comments under the Angler Satisfaction theme), and
- broadening the participation base (for a variety of beneficial outcomes) by increasing fishing opportunities.

Science and Data

Synopsis of Introductory Remarks

RECREATIONAL DATA COLLECTION AND AREAS FOR POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENT

Rick Bellevance

Capt. Rick Bellavance, Owner/Operator of Priority Fishing Charters in Point Judith Rhode Island, spoke about recreational data collection and his thoughts about the current MRIP program and areas for potential improvement. Based on Pre-Summit survey results, the Community feels that the current MRIP program is producing unsatisfactory results which may be limiting recreational angler experiences. Working with the Community and private industry, the Agency could take examples from current electronic reporting initiatives such as the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program's (ACCSP's) Safis Mobile program to use modern technology to collect more timely and accurate data. Increasing angler buy-in through outreach and collaboration should be a goal of the Agency and will result in better data being collected. Data should be easy to collect and managed through a central data warehouse to reduce redundancy of reporting.

Recognition that the Community is built around different demographics with different needs is important if satisfying experiences are to be achieved. As fishermen become more accountable, they should be rewarded with stability and predictability in regulations. The Community needs to do their part by providing accurate data which will allow managers to make better decisions and craft better regulations that reflect the Community's impact on the resources.

A FOCUS ON NOAA FISHERIES ECONOMICS & HUMAN DIMENSIONS PROGRAM

Dr. Rita Curtis, NOAA Fisheries

As one constituent stated "Socioeconomics is rarely discussed during Council public meetings. It is always off to the side; how do we bring this more center and build trust in socioeconomic information?" Dr. Curtis summarized the program's progress since the 2010 Summit and reported results from the Recreational Fisheries Constituents' Economics Workshop held in 2014.

The Angler Expenditures Survey with Economic Valuation Questions was conducted for the five year periods between 2005-2009 and 2010-2014. Delays in completion and significant costs to implement the survey will be addressed by conducting the durable goods survey in 2014 and trip expenditures survey in 2016. The For-Hire Cost-Earnings survey, completed for the West Coast region between 2005-2009, has been expanded to all regions except the Caribbean for the 2010-2014 period (including Atlantic Highly Migratory Species [HMS]). The BLAST Model, which incorporates economic and biological sub-models to simulate angler behavior under alternative stock structures and regulations, will be employed to predict effects on effort, welfare, and ultimately, fish stocks.

The following were the primary recommendations from the 2014 Recreational Fisheries Constituents Workshop:

1. Increased communication of research goals and priorities for NOAA Fisheries' recreational fishing economics program.
2. Improve incorporation of socioeconomic information into the fishery management process.
3. Improved communication, cooperation and collaboration.
4. Improved socioeconomic information.

Challenges

Distrust of the data and science. The overarching theme woven through many of the identified challenges is a distrust of the data and science used for recreational fisheries management (Challenge A). The lack of confidence in the data appears to be based on a combination of insufficient understanding of management requirements (Challenge G), a deficiency in communication and education (Challenges A, G, and D), a lack of collaborative efforts to build a sense of ownership over the data (Challenge E), inadequate transparency (Challenge H), and delays in data processing (Challenge D).

Insufficient use of social and economic data. The second major theme is the lack of social and economic data to demonstrate the importance of the non-commercial fishing. Council deliberations are compromised with inadequate social and economic information/analysis and are reluctant to move forward with new allocation decisions without adequate cause.

Need for stock assessments. The need for more regular stock assessments was also important to participants. The length of time between assessments poses a challenge and leads to distrust of outdated or inadequate data.

TOP CHALLENGES

The following challenges emerged from breakout group discussions on science and data and were scored by polling Community participants. They are listed in order of their "importance to address score".

Challenge Score: 1=Not important to address; 5=Critically important to address	**Importance to Address Score**
A. Lack of Community confidence in data used for management. More than half of the breakout tables listed distrust of the MRIP data and information as a major challenge. Stated reasons for low confidence include: • Fishers have an insufficient understanding of the data needs and purpose for stock assessments and management, largely due to a lack of communication, education, and accessible information on the topic (also see Challenges G and D below). This leads to lower confidence in the data. • A lack of collaboration and buy-in has kept "distrust gaps" alive. Fishers lack a sense of ownership over the data because they feel that MRIP has not taken their ideas or worked collaboratively with them to perform joint research (also see "lack of cooperative research" below). • Data validation is interpreted as mistrust, and the lack of mutual trust in self-reporting sets up an "our data – your data" dichotomy. • Supplementing and validating the Agency's data collection efforts with outside data sources (e.g., angler self-reporting, NGOs, academic, and charter boats) is difficult.	4.1
B. Need for better integration of socioeconomic data in decision-making. A few issues emerged around this topic: • an overall lack of socioeconomic data regarding the recreational fishing industry, • the sense that management dismisses socioeconomic data regarding the importance of recreational fisheries, and • the reluctance of Councils to use socioeconomic data in making allocations decisions.	4.0
C. Need for more stock assessments. Although only one table specifically identified this, it ranked highly in the audience poll. The suggestion is to perform stock assessments in the same way as usual but on a more frequent basis to allow meaningful comparisons across shorter time frames.	3.9
D. Timeliness of data processing and sharing as usable products. Half of the groups mentioned some aspect of timeliness and usability of data. Specific issues include a lack of timely data for ACLs and in-season activities. Also, as discussed in Challenge A above, distrust grows without usable and accessible products.	3.7
E. Lack of cooperative research opportunities among fishing and science communities. (i.e., angler involvement). Recreational fishers expressed an interest in collaborating with scientists on research, however: • they do not know how to contribute to data collection, • they lack incentives to participate, and • the self-reporting program is inadequate. They also note that cooperative research would build trust among parties and a sense of ownership over the data (see Challenge A above).	3.7

Challenge Score: 1=Not important to address; 5=Critically important to address	Importance to Address Score
F. Lack of strategic science planning to support management and Council needs. Multiple groups brought up issues with the current system, including: • the inappropriateness of the current recreational catch and effort data collection system; • the unsuitability of MRIP for monitoring fisheries in the short term (i.e., "pulse" fisheries with short seasons), although it is acceptable over the long term; and • the state of poor communication between Councils and the Agency to coordinate data collection related to critical issues.	3.5
G. Lack of Community understanding of how data are used to manage fisheries. As mentioned in Challenge A above, the insufficient understanding of the science of fisheries management is leading to distrust of data and system. Multiple groups perceived that fishers do not have a complete understanding of how stock assessments work and what the "best available science" is for managing fisheries. They pointed to a need for accessible education and communication to relieve the issue and build trust.	3.3
H. Lack of transparency in data collection and use. This can also lead to distrust.	3.3
I. Lack of management understanding of the data limitations. Managers are using the data in ways they are not meant to be used.	3.0
J. Regional differences are not all adequately reflected in data collection. Some groups noted that a national data collection system may not account for nuances between regions (particularly for the Pacific Islands and Alaska). Differences may relate to species and habitat as well as the cultural and social realms around fishing.	2.8
K. Difficulty in sampling all access points. Participants noted the difficulty in achieving adequate catch accounting due to the diversity and geographic dispersion of sampling locations. Despite their desire to achieve 100% reporting, they recognize that many locations will not be reached. *Note that this score is based on a vote by hand due to a glitch in the digital polling system.	2.8

OTHER CHALLENGES

Other challenges identified during the Summit include:

- the general under-funding of fisheries science and management,
- the lack of management's understanding of fishers' reactions to regulation changes (e.g., the "get it while you can" mentality),
- the lack of new survey approaches for non-trawlable habitat (e.g., rocky or conservation areas),
- the lack of accurate estimates of post-release survival for use in stock assessment and management,
- the difficulty in creating reporting technology that works for everyone (apps and internet access are limited for some fishers), and
- complications due to differences in state and federal processes for data collection.

Participants' Suggested Actions

OVERARCHING THEMES

Social and economic data. Two major themes emerged under the Science and Data actions. The first was to increase and utilize social and economic data to support recreational fisheries (Action A below). Nearly every table offered at least one action in their top three on this topic. Likewise, this action was ranked the most feasible and nearly the most beneficial among the Science and Data actions. Dr. Rita Curtis' talk on economic data, Ed Watamura's stories about the cultural value of fishing, as well as the Morris-Deal Commission report highlighted the significance of the recreational fishing industry and may be the underpinnings of this discussion. This action is addressed tangentially in the Next Steps and Markers for Success: Action Road Maps #3 and #1.

Trustworthiness of data. The second theme involved the "trustworthiness" of data, directly addressing the number one challenge above. Participants discussed this in multiple ways, with ideas to:

- improve the quality and timeliness of data (Action B) so that fishers will have believable information when they need it,
- increase engagement in data collection to create more buy-in and sense of ownership over the data (Action C), and
- communicate the rationale behind fisheries management and facilitate involvement (Action D) so that fishers will find the information believable.

These data quality actions fed directly into the Next Steps and Markers for Success: Action Road Map #10, and many of the actions below were indirectly addressed under other Next Steps topics.

TOP SUGGESTED ACTIONS

The following recommended actions emerged from breakout group discussions on science and data and were scored by polling the fishing community and management participants. Different groups' related ideas and issues are noted under each action. The actions are listed in order of their "Average Score"—the average of the benefit and feasibility scores, as determined by Summit participants.

Action Benefit score: 1=Not beneficial at all; 5=Extremely beneficial Feasibility Score: 1=Not feasible at all; 5=Extremely feasible Average score: Average of benefit and feasibility scores Chapter 3 Activity #: Related action number in following section	**Benefit Score**	**Feasibility Score**	**Average score**	**Chapter 3 Activity #**
A. Use social and economic data and analyses to inform allocations. Nearly every breakout group had one or more actions related to social and economic data, including the ideas to: • develop human dimension measures and account for social value that is not monetary (e.g., healthy food value, creating relationships, happiness); • provide guidelines for Councils to assess economic value for various allocation scenarios (and require periodic revisiting); • perform more cooperative economic studies with industry; and • undertake socioeconomic analyses to understand fishermen's responses to regulation changes, particularly in regards to predictable seasons and catch limits.	4.2	3.7	3.95	3
B. Improve catch and effort data collection, analysis, and timeliness. (i.e., the quality of data). Most groups offered actions regarding the accuracy and timeliness of data, including: • developing better tools and technology to improve data collection, processing, and validation (e.g., electronic reporting and monitoring, Vessel Trip Reports (VTRs), apps, and improved survey design); • using more pilot programs to test new data collection methods and technologies; • implementing an effective license registry in all states to define the number of anglers (e.g., fishermen in Hawaii do not need a state permit); • improving estimations for rare events, short season, and in-season monitoring (e.g., identify the survey universe by using Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) permit records); • increasing the sample size, get more representative samples, and investigate outliers; and • reaching all access points; aim for 100% reporting.	4.3	3.3	3.80	5 10

Action Benefit score: 1=Not beneficial at all; 5=Extremely beneficial Feasibility Score: 1=Not feasible at all; 5=Extremely feasible Average score: Average of benefit and feasibility scores Chapter 3 Activity #: Related action number in following section	**Benefit Score**	**Feasibility Score**	**Average score**	**Chapter 3 Activity #**
C. Increase engagement in data collection. Most groups offered ideas on ways to increase collaboration, noting that the following steps would also build trust in the data: • undertaking cooperative research studies, • involving anglers and charter boat captains in biological data collection and data verification to supplement stock assessments, and • allowing for self-reporting data.	4.0	3.5	3.75	10
D. Communicate and educate the Community about data and the science behind fisheries management. Many groups posited that with more education and greater understanding about the science behind fisheries management, people would see the relevance and purpose behind the data. They also suggested a two-way communication flow, with fishers providing input on Science Center processes. Some specific actions include: • outreach to build trust around the data; • educate fishers on the rationale behind regulations such as season closures and catch limits; • communicate how anglers can contribute to the data collection process (also see Action C above); and • facilitate recreational fishing community input into the Science Center's survey, assessment, and research programs.	3.9	3.5	3.70	10
E. Improve fishery-independent data. People thought improvements to fishery-independent data (stock surveys performed by the Agency that are not dependent on commercial or recreational fisheries data) would be very beneficial. On a related note, some groups suggested: • Identifying valid, external data sources to provide accurate information. This is the purpose of fishery-independent data. • Increasing funding to achieve sufficient samples.	4.1	3.2	3.65	10
F. Improve post-release survival estimates. Participants suggested working with anglers to develop estimates of post-release survival for key recreational species. This kind of data would help to develop best practices for catch and release, and encouraging public buy-in.	3.8	3.5	3.65	8
G. Implement an SSC for HMS. Give an advisory role to a highly-qualified group rather than just a few agency people.	3.8	3.5	3.65	

Action Benefit score: 1=Not beneficial at all; 5=Extremely beneficial Feasibility Score: 1=Not feasible at all; 5=Extremely feasible Average score: Average of benefit and feasibility scores Chapter 3 Activity #: Related action number in following section	**Benefit Score**	**Feasibility Score**	**Average score**	**Chapter 3 Activity #**
H. Evaluate the strategic approach to collecting catch and effort data. To do so, a few groups suggested the following: • stabilize MRIP with a program that is not always in flux, • consider the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) recommendation and consider further incorporation of recommendations to improve MRIP (e.g., consider greater regional flexibility), and • evaluate MRIP through validation studies.	3.8	3.3	3.55	10

OTHER ACTIONS

Other actions identified during the Summit include:

- increasing coordination between Councils and the Agency (addressed in the Successful Relationships breakout session),
- consider the use of a mobile app to record catch and location of catch data, and
- streamlining the bureaucratic process.

Successful Relationships

Synopsis of Introductory Remarks

SUCCESSFUL MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES

Ken Franke, Sportfishing Association of California

This discussion is intended to deliver a single and critical message in regard to successful fishery management. Decision-makers must understand the importance of involving impacted parties from the beginning of a plan. Decisions made without input from all stakeholders open a path for failure, frustration, and lawsuits. A collaborative model that facilitates decision-making without litigation has been proven possible, but requires additional effort. Most failed processes stem from a stakeholder who was ignored and subsequently rallied to oppose the statement in question. All sectors need to be included in order to promote successful relations.

The saying "rules without relationships lead to rebellion" is equally important to understand when building relationships. As the MSA reauthorization and the development of a National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy moves forward, connectivity with the community is essential for success.

The Summit was a positive foundation for the collaborative process. Now is the time to identify parties that may not currently understand the process, but could potentially provide useful input about this effort if educated properly.

STRONG PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Russ Dunn, NOAA Fisheries

For a public trust natural resource, there is only one path to successful stewardship: a strong public-private partnership.

While the relationship between the Agency and Community has improved over the past four years, there is a need to progress from "an improving relationship" to a "strong partnership." Experts suggest a few basic steps toward strengthening the partnership:

- broadly engage stakeholders,
- identify realistic and measurable common goals,
- create a detailed plan, and
- communicate openly.

Through the Summit and other methods, we are directly engaging anglers to identify and develop common goals. Following the Summit, we will craft a detailed plan of action (the National Action Agenda) based on input. Therefore at the Summit, we are asking you to provide your feedback about how to better engage and communicate at the national and regional levels.

We possess the key components and structures necessary to forge a successful public-private partnership, along with a model of how to apply them in FishSmart. Success, while not easy, has proven to be achievable.

While a strong and healthy relationship does not always assure smooth sailing, an open and cooperative rapport is the only way to achieve the necessary balance between access and conservation.

Challenges

OVERARCHING THEMES

Institutional bias toward commercial fishing. The biggest challenge of this discussion theme was the perception that the Agency has a long-standing orientation toward commercial fishing and is fighting the shift toward recreational fishing (Challenge A). This is compounded by a perceived lack of Community representation on the Regional Fishery Management Councils (Action F).

Room for improved communication. Most of the other challenges related to communication between the Agency and recreational fishers. Obstacles to meaningful and effective communication include the difficulty of releasing information quickly and efficiently (Challenges C and J), the challenge of reaching a geographically dispersed and varied community (Challenge E), and that the lack of full-time, dedicated Regional Recreational Fisheries Coordinators in some regions (Challenge B) weakens relationships with state agencies closer to the on-the-water experience (Challenge D),.

TOP CHALLENGES

The following challenges emerged from breakout group discussions on successful relationships. They were then scored by polling Community participants. The challenges are listed in order of their "importance to address score". Different groups' related ideas and issues are noted under each challenge.

Challenge Score: 1=Not important to address; 5=Critically important to address # of Mentions: # of times breakout groups listed the item in their top 3	**Importance to Address Score**
A. Perception that the Agency is oriented toward commercial fishing and is unwilling to change. Nearly half the groups mentioned some sense of inequity, including issues around: • a lack of staff and programs dedicated to recreational fisheries, • a perception that the Agency is depriving recreational fishers of the opportunity to fish, • the unsuitability of using commercial industry management targets for recreational fisheries management, • difficulty/inability to change allocations from the status quo (even if it is far outdated), and • the lack of a national policy for recreational fisheries (addressed in more detail in the Angler Satisfaction section).	4.1
B. Insufficient resources to support Regional Coordinators' outreach and communication efforts. Participants scored this as the second-most important challenge, showing consensus around replicating the successful Pacific Islands' Recreational Coordinator outreach (a full-time, dedicated person) in other regions.	3.8
C. Lack of funding for the Agency to conduct outreach activities, release public information quickly, or perform cooperative research. Many groups raised issues regarding communication, outreach, and taking the time to build understanding and trust between the Community and the Agency, specifically: • the Agency getting information out too slowly, • the lack of communication leading to distrust and lack of confidence in the agency, • the Agency not treating anglers as clients, • the Community's lack of understanding about the distinction between Councils (management decisions) and the Agency (management implementation), and • the fledgling nature of the Community/Agency relationship; more time is needed to build trust.	3.6

Challenge Score: 1=Not important to address; 5=Critically important to address # of Mentions: # of times breakout groups listed the item in their top 3	**Importance to Address Score**
D. Weak relationship between the Agency and state agencies (who are closer to the typical angler). Participants also noted that recreational fishers tend to regard state management with more esteem than federal management. One issue compounding the challenge of Agency and state coordination is confusion over state and federal regulations.	3.5
E. Difficulty of reaching a diverse and decentralized Community. Many groups noted that the Community is not uniform. The variety of opinions, preferences, and geographic dispersal of the Community leads to mixed messages being sent to the Agency, and also presents a challenge to engaging and communicating with the whole Community.	3.5
F. Councils' lack of understanding regarding recreational fishing issues, especially those of small fisheries. Participants agreed that recreational fishing interests should be better represented on the Councils (also see Angler Satisfaction Challenge E).	3.4
G. Opaque stock assessment process and lengthy rule-making timeframe. Nearly every group voiced concerns over the stock assessment process, in particular: • the need for greater transparency so that people can better understand the process and issues to create a greater trust for the federal system, • the need for a transparent process for regularly reassessing allocations, • the need for more advanced warning regarding regulatory changes, • the rule-making process is too long for building relationships and trust, and • innovation is hampered by the slow and burdensome Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) process.	3.3
H. Lawsuits (notably from NGOs against the Agency) take resources and hinder progress. Clearly, lawsuits are detrimental to successful relationships.	3.3
I. Inability to transfer quota from the commercial to the recreational sector in a market-based transaction. Participants believe they need greater Council and political support for the recreational sector to buy quota from the commercial sector.	3.2
J. The technical and intimidating nature of Agency information. Participants believe that the Agency could do a better job of educating the Community so they better understand Agency mandates and regulations. In particular, groups mentioned that information should be presented in more of a story-telling way, like Craig Severance's story about a father and daughter fishing Yellowfin Tuna.	2.9

OTHER CHALLENGES

Other challenges identified during the Summit include:

- the use of inappropriate data in regulatory actions (also see related comments in the Science and Data section), and
- the compartmentalizing of different agencies and offices and an attitude of "not my agency's problem".

Participants' Suggested Actions

OVERARCHING THEMES

Consistent, ongoing communication. Actions in the Successful Relationships session revolved around improving communication between federal staff and the diverse Community (Action A), particularly in utilizing more appropriate communication channels. From more extensive use of Regional Recreational Fisheries Coordinators (Action G) to using states, NGOs, fishing clubs, and charter boat captains as liaisons to local communities (Actions D and I), participants were looking for more relevant and convenient ways to connect to fisheries management. Likewise, they had ideas on the communication itself and looked to other agencies for their most effective communication practices (Action E) and to expand the Agency's methods for reaching people (Action F).

Council representation. A related major theme is to achieve better representation on the Councils. Two of the high-scoring actions below (Actions B and C) highlight the importance of advocating for greater Community interest representation.

TOP SUGGESTED ACTIONS

The following actions emerged from breakout group discussions on successful relationships and were scored by polling the Community and management participants. Different groups' related ideas and issues are noted under each action. The actions are listed in order of their "Average Score"—the average of the benefit and feasibility scores, as determined by Summit participants. The final column notes the Chapter 3 Activity Number with a related topic.

Action Benefit score: 1=Not beneficial at all; 5=Extremely beneficial Feasibility Score: 1=Not feasible at all; 5=Extremely feasible Average score: Average of benefit and feasibility scores Chapter 3 Activity #: Related activities number in following section	**Benefit Score**	**Feasibility Score**	**Average score**	**Chapter 3 Activity #**
A. Develop consistent interaction between federal staff and regional fishing communities. The idea of increasing communication was a popular idea here as well as in the earlier Angler Satisfaction, Science and Data, and Healthy Recreational Fisheries breakout sessions. In this session, participants emphasized: • the importance of keeping the same federal employees as liaisons to the communities; • creating mechanisms for sharing informal or institutional Community knowledge; • increasing angler involvement in research and management through: o cooperative research (mentioned by three groups), o stakeholder-led self-monitoring programs, and o greater angler involvement in data reporting; • utilizing local organizations (i.e., fishing associations, local chapters of national groups, etc.) to build relationships at the grass-roots level; • developing a common understanding and support for a plan through ongoing communication; • increasing outreach and two-way communication; and • forming Regional Recreational Fisheries Panels.	4.1	3.6	3.85	7
B. Improve state-level advocacy for recreational fishing representation on Councils. Also see Action C below.	4.0	3.4	3.70	6
C. Require Governors to nominate at least one Recreational Fishing Representative for each Council seat. Similar to Action B above, participants are interested in seeing a stronger representation on Councils through Council seats, at the meetings through advocates' attendance, and more appropriate meeting times for working fishermen.	4.0	3.2	3.60	6
D. Increase collaboration between states and Agency regional staff. A number of groups brought up ideas to share management responsibilities: use state agencies as "boots on the dock" to better engage the Community, and engage states up-front in developing budgets.	3.9	3.2	3.55	7

Action Benefit score: 1=Not beneficial at all; 5=Extremely beneficial Feasibility Score: 1=Not feasible at all; 5=Extremely feasible Average score: Average of benefit and feasibility scores Chapter 3 Activity #: Related activities number in following section	**Benefit Score**	**Feasibility Score**	**Average score**	**Chapter 3 Activity #**
E. Prepare best management practices for more effective communication and, in particular, review successful models like Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to see how they have built trust. Look at ways to create more easily-digestible information.	3.7	3.4	3.55	7
F. Increase the Agency's Communication Office assistance to Regional Recreational Coordinators and other staff. Like Action A and E above, participants hope to see better communication, especially: • targeted outreach and education to relevant audiences (e.g., boat owners), • customized information for the audience, • increased grassroots connections with the angling community, • use of story-telling, • using apps to reach a larger audience than print media, and • growing the Marine Resources Education Program to reach the broader Community.	3.6	3.3	3.45	
G. Fund full-time Regional Recreational Coordinators to communicate locally and be ombudsmen for recreational fisheries in Council processes. This action was also raised in the Regional Collaboration session.	3.7	3.0	3.35	
H. Define recreational fishing to include subsistence and cultural fishing. This topic came up in a number of ways throughout the conference, pointing to the lack of a single term that captures the variety of non-commercial fishing and the idea that these types of fishing are not seen as valuable as others.	3.2	3.3	3.25	
I. Use charter boat captains as communication liaisons to anglers since they better understand Council roles while being well-connected to recreational fisheries interests.	3.1	2.9	3.00	

OTHER ACTIONS

Other actions identified during the Summit include:

- instituting a shift in the Agency to recognize the economic and social importance of recreational fisheries, and understand its differences from commercial fishing;
- performing goodwill gestures to build angler confidence and trust (e.g., open select fisheries that are currently closed);
- utilizing more cooperative engagement with "carrots" (e.g., barotrauma) rather than "sticks" (e.g., typical regulations);
- learning from successful EFPs and streamline the process and support EFPs;
- clarifying the distinction between Councils as "democracy in action" (decision-making) and the Agency as the implementation body;
- validating (ground truth) data early before using for future actions (addressed in the Science and Data and Angler Satisfaction sessions);
- shifting fisheries management from MSY to fishing mortality rates (addressed in Angler Satisfaction Action F); and
- developing a national policy for saltwater recreational fisheries (addressed in Angler Satisfaction Action B).

Regional Engagement & Collaboration

Synopsis of Introductory Remarks

SUCCESS STORIES FROM THE PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION

Ed Watamura, Hawaii Fishermen's Alliance for Conservation and Tradition

We have a saying in Hawaii: AINOKEA. It's pidgin-English for "I don't care".

Is this attitude the reason for fishermen's non-involvement in fishery management? Whether it be communicating with NOAA representatives, testifying at regional Council meetings, or showing up at legislative public hearings, the fishermen are represented by just a few and usually the same few dedicated souls. The bottom line is that oftentimes fishermen will be disgruntled at the outcomes and feel unjustly persecuted. What can be done?

The Pacific Islands Region of NOAA has held two summits that brought together representatives from all the Islands as well as from Guam, CNMI, and American Samoa. The second of these summits was initiated by David Itano, who is the only full-time employed Recreational/Non-Commercial Fisheries Coordinator in the nation. The common thread derived from both summits was the need to have NOAA recognize the importance of region-specific issues, and to mange accordingly. The constituents also expressed a need to improve communication and most importantly, to have Dave visit all the region's islands to interface with many of the stakeholders.

Two other attempts at involving Pacific Island fishermen in the management process have been initiated. One is the collaboration of boat clubs and fishing organizations to collect recreational/non-commercial catch and effort data. The Waialua Boat Club is the initial pilot project organization. The second is the creation of HFACT which is an organization whose goal is to be the "ears and voice" of Hawaii's fishermen. HFACT interfaces with grass roots fishermen and represents them with national and state fisheries agencies and decision makers.

In my experiences as Chairman of the Advisory Panel for the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, through HFACT, and the Waialua Boat Club, I have come to believe that it's not INOKEA but rather AIKEA that most accurately describes fishermen's attitudes and passion for their way of life. What is lacking is the spirit of empowerment. There is an overriding perception of helplessness and that individually, they cannot initiate any change. Our goal is to change this belief and instill the conviction that together we will make a difference. I implore our leaders to listen and help us become empowered.

STRENGTHENING THE RELATIONSHIP

John Bullard, NOAA Fisheries

In order to better understand and better address recreational fisheries issues, we must first strengthen the relationship between the Community and regional decision-makers. By gaining a better understanding of where we stand on issues, we can find a path forward by using areas of common ground as a starting point. We also need to recognize that each region is different and that the challenges facing each will require region-specific solutions.

Let me acknowledge some of the problems the Community has in dealing with the Agency:

- a large and confusing bureaucracy;
- it is hard to know whom to talk to;
- estimates of recreational harvest are very imprecise, and the method for gathering and analyzing information is hard to understand; and
- recreational fishermen generally don't have the time to be fully engaged in the fishery management process, so they feel they don't have a significant voice at the table.

The Agency has similar problems in communicating with the Community:

- it is a very diffuse population;
- it is hard to know whom to talk to;
- getting reliable information about fishing efforts is challenging because it is hard to collect this information from recreational fishermen, mainly because they can be hard to locate and contact; and
- NOAA is currently neither organized nor staffed in such a way to comprehensively engage with the large and loosely-knit Community.

Only by listening to each other and working together will we have a strong influence over the future of our nation's recreational fisheries and make progress. I know two things about recreational fishermen: they are keen observers of the marine environment, and with every cast, they prove they care and are filled with hope. Believe me, you couldn't have a better partner to face a tough challenge with than someone with a keen eye and a hopeful outlook.

Challenges

OVERARCHING THEMES

Need for localized presence. Among the regions, the most commonly identified challenges focused on issues related to local Agency presence and communication. Based on participant input, these challenges are likely to be interrelated. For example, the lack of full-time, dedicated Recreational Fisheries Coordinators in some regions is seen as contributing to inadequate communication.

Apart from this overarching theme, the breakout sessions helped identify issues that may be uniquely important to specific regions, particularly in the Southeast and the Pacific Islands.

TOP CHALLENGES

Summit participants worked with colleagues from within their own region to identify major challenges toward improved regional engagement and collaboration. Unlike the other breakout sessions, participants were not asked to score the challenges.

Challenge	Regions Highlighting This Challenge
A. Lack of a localized, active Agency presence and adequate travel budgets. (e.g., Recreational Fisheries Coordinators). According to the participants, the Community's range of fisheries and coastline make it difficult for staff to reach everyone.	West Coast Alaska Pacific Islands Greater Atlantic
B. Communication. The working groups stated that communication needs to be focused at the local level and tailored to the many diverse recreational groups (e.g., private anglers vs. charters/headboats). The government and fishermen need to better explain the importance of fishery rebuilding, proactively manage expectations, and build trust in the Agency.	Southeast Greater Atlantic Alaska
C. Overall need for greater recreational fishery prioritization. Two working groups pointed to the limited amount of focus paid to recreational fishing and its constituents in general. The Alaska group called out a sense of disenfranchisement resulting from attention and resources allocated to the commercial industry.	Greater Atlantic Alaska
D. Lack of season stability and access to fisheries.	Southeast
E. Difficulty producing desired results within the Councils. The group highlighted the issue that the Agency is actively listening to the Community but decision-making still falls to the Councils.	Southeast
F. Lack of clear definitions for goals and roles. The group identified the need to define the goals of the Agency recreational fishery initiative, its coordinators, and the role of the states vs. the Agency.	West Coast
G. Use of inappropriate/inaccurate terminology. Participants in this group noted the prevalent use of terms that do not adequately or correctly describe the diversity within non-commercial fishing (e.g., subsistence, culturally traditional, and others).	Pacific Islands
H. Silos within the Agency. The group noted a lack of integration and communication among Agency programs and the Agency lines offices along with the lack of a clear national policy to guide dialogue with non-commercial fishermen.	Pacific Islands

Participants' Suggested Actions

OVERARCHING THEMES

Communication strategies and active participation. The actions identified represent a wide range of micro- and macro-level implementation steps. Notably, they take into account not only the role of the Agency, but also industry and constituents. Reflecting the commonly identified challenges described above, many of the actions are focused on tools, processes, and staffing to support improved communications.

TOP SUGGESTED ACTIONS

Each regional group was asked to identify three actions that could be used to implement improvements in regional engagement and collaboration. A summarized and condensed list of those actions is below. Again, participants were not asked to score these actions in terms of potential impact or feasibility.

Action	Next Steps # (if applicable)
A. Revamp Council member training. Provide revised training to both new and existing Council members that informs them on the particular interests of the Community.	3
B. Hire full-time Recreational Fisheries Coordinator(s). Provide the necessary travel and outreach budgets to visit local areas in order to build trust, improve communications, and address issues. Recreational Fisheries Coordinators provide a personal touch that portrays the Agency in a positive light to constituents.	
C. Work on getting constituents to accept a more active role. Participants encouraged the Community (including the industry) to take more responsibility in participating in messaging, education, and other efforts.	
D. Develop a communication/outreach strategy and implementation plan to educate the fishing public. Focus on: • explaining Council and Agency management processes, and • describing the purpose and importance of rebuilding.	
E. Pursue cooperative research activities between industry and the Agency.	
F. Monthly teleconferences, annual roundtable meetings, or other ongoing gatherings that include the Agency, fishery participants, and state advisors/liaisons.	7
G. Foster collaborative innovation.	5
H. Track and communicate progress to all parties. Send emails at least quarterly to keep people up to date on initiative actions. Explain what has been achieved, what needs action, and how to get or remain involved.	
I. Use MSA reauthorization to adopt a more inclusive definition of non-commercial fishing.	4
J. Stabilize loss of fishing areas. Limit the expansion of no-take zones such as sanctuaries, monuments, DoD restricted areas, and private lands and seek increased access.	

Chapter Three
ACTIVITIES ROAD MAP

Summary of Key Activities

The activities noted below are the summarized results from the Summit's final breakout session. Many of these activities would be collaborative efforts between the Agency and Community. They are for Agency consideration and their inclusion does not imply commitment.

Steps/Sub-Actions	Markers for Success
Activity #1 **Establish a National Policy for Recreational Saltwater Fisheries** Note: The Agency is currently developing this policy.	
Draft National Recreational Fishing Policy topics include: • recognition of economic importance of recreational fishing, • social fabric of recreational fishing, • conservation of compatibility, • living documents (regular assessment of allocation), • public resources shared by commercial and recreational interests, and • identified desired outcomes.	Adopted policy.
Activity #2 **Shift MSY or Optimum Yield (OY) to Mortality Rate Management Targets**	
Communicate success stories where this management approach works (like Red Drum and Striped Bass).	Information and documentation in an accessible format.
Identify which species this shift would work for (especially recreational species like Summer Flounders or Red Snapper).	Determination regarding whether this works and for which species.
Before pilot programs, try to use modeling to determine how this different management program would affect the fishery when compared to the quota management status quo. What are motivations in these candidate fisheries? Use a comparison matrix to compare mortality rate fisheries to quota-managed fisheries. Specifically model biology, economics, and interview fishermen. Ask anglers what they want, but in context.	
Develop new surveys that can provide supportive data.	
From the list of candidate species identified in Step 2, undertake some pilot programs to manage based on harvest rate vs. quota management.	Example: "x" fish a day for all recreational fishermen for some species.
Analyze legal issues.	
Identify lessons learned from pilot and implement new rule.	Rule-making that allows a shift from yield in pounds to a more responsive method and management changes for one or more species.

Steps/Sub-Actions	Markers for Success
Activity #3 **Reexamine Recreational and Commercial Allocation Processes**	
If allocations are to be adjusted, there is need for a top-down guidance from NOAA (or outside entity) to ensure a transparent Council decision process.	
Need regular schedule for examining allocation schemes and levels.	
Need to use the best available science in the allocation process. This can become an issue when allocation schemes are not periodically updated.	
Consider balanced representation on Regional Fishery Management Councils as a component of equitable ACL review (see Activity 6).	
Need to prioritize top species by region to recognize allocation priorities as there may not be that many.	
In any individual fishing quota (IFQ) or individual transferable quota (ITQ), consider a market-based mechanism for reallocation.	
Activity #4 **Provide Input to MSA Reauthorization**	
Amend the MSA to give managers flexibility to use other options besides ACLs (e.g., species-specific area closures instead of ACLs).	Language incorporated in MSA; Get on the CCC agenda (carried through all steps).
Incorporate recreational fishing info available (2014 Summit; Morris-Deal; MAFAC Working Group paper).	
Monitor drafts of MSA and provide language/written drafts.	
Confirm that MSA is consistent with the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA).	
Define subsistence fisheries.	
Incorporate flexibility in stock rebuilding timelines (10 yr). Change language to "as soon as practicable".	
Assert that there should be a national policy on Saltwater Recreational Fishing. Note: The Agency is currently developing this policy	
Be able to defer implementation of ACLs until adequate scientific basis is available.	
Support states in addressing habitat.	
Incorporate timelines and guidance on revisiting allocation.	
Convey all these ideas to Congress.	

Steps/Sub-Actions	Markers for Success
Activity #5 **Foster Innovation**	
Streamline or improve process (i.e., create consistent framework, make it faster and easier to obtain EFPs) to approve new gear types for fisheries (e.g., to reduce by-catch, decrease barotraumas).	Establish point of contact (in NMFS & Council) and establish a consistent national framework.
Create an Office of Innovation or an Agency liaison position to help navigate the process of approving and adopting innovative equipment, point them to resources, and to help them move forward. • Involve Sea Grant folks more in innovation. • Explore Sea Grants and external partners outside of Community capabilities (re: innovation).	Number of innovations process annually vs. how many come to fruition.
Support the creation of an "Innovation Sub-committee" of the Councils.	Ensure each region addresses these issues.
Some example innovative measures for consideration are: • allowing flexibility for three year averages vs. annual quotas, and • providing research quota set-aside to work on innovation projects.	
Activity #6 **Achieve More Equitable Council Representation**	
The Community should coordinate with the Agency on potential language for MSA reauthorization.	Increased angler representation on some Councils and more equitable representation from all sectors on other Councils.
Include broader discussions to consider the diversity of representation on Councils in MSA reauthorization .	
In MSA reauthorization, include language similar to previous sunset language for the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC), but for all Councils – with an option be more specific in some regions (such as Alaska), only if there is resistance. Language would be for governors to submit a nominee from each sector for each open seat. Section 302 (b), (d), and (i).	
Gain increased # of recreational nominations from governors.	
Activity #7 **Improve Intergovernmental Collaboration**	
Invite state directors to next summit.	
Agency coordinators go to state commission meetings.	
Ensure more collaboration input from states, commissions, on Agency action agendas.	
Include states and Councils to roundtable meetings in each region.	
Identify key opportunities for collaboration (e.g., MRIP, habitat, and forage fish).	
Promote awareness of successful examples of collaboration.	

Steps/Sub-Actions	Markers for Success
Activity #8 **Enhance Post-Release Survival**	
Cooperative research/testing with a regional perspective to demonstrate tangible benefits for Council and public for using descending devices/best practices (Agency and Community).	
Encourage Councils to understand and act upon the best available science.	
Fishers and industry need to promote and develop an educational process for best practices, that is sanctioned by NOAA or the Councils (Agency and Community).	
Support public adoption of devices/best practices through outreach – distribution, education (Agency and Community).	
Viewing survivability as a bigger process than just barotrauma. It also involved best practices for fishing gear, angler behavior, etc. and is species-specific.	
Connect adoption of best practices to incentives for fishermen (i.e. longer seasons, great access to the resource) (Agency and Councils).	
Activity #9 **Manage to Conserve Forage Fish**	
Make Councils, the Agency, and the public aware of importance of forage species.	Voluntary recreational closures dedicating resources/labor to rebuilding stocks
Clearly define forage species and if they should be included as forage.	Discussions and decisions regarding specific species and how they relate to the FMP and fishery ecosystem plans.
Capture forage species in regulation.	Place in Fishery Management Plan (FMP), Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP), or state regulations. Demonstrate consistency across regions.
Strengthen MSA language supporting forage species.	Highlight forage in MSA revisions.
Assess and define forage stock status and biological needs of forage fish.	Stock assessments establish proper management plans and board.
Identify causes of forage fish stock decline: • fishing, • by-catch, or • other (power plants/habitat degradation).	Monitor catch and removals.
Establish regulatory priorities (i.e., ecosystem value vs. fishery removals).	Consistent regional priorities for ecosystem/forage species.
As part of the general Community/Agency collaboration, cooperatively work with partners (state/NGOs/associations) to address forage fish needs.	Develop cooperative relationships.

Steps/Sub-Actions	Markers for Success
Activity #10 **Improve Data Collection**	
Recognize diversity of recreational fisheries.	
Identify data needs and requirements for all recreational data users (state, federal Council, commission, academic scientists, managers, NGOs, recreational stakeholders, etc.). Recognize tradeoffs of data needs vs. simplicity.	
Establish national standards for data elements, data structures, and storage standards: • uniform transparency and accessibility standards, and • promote regional solutions for establishing data collection procedures that conform with national standards.	
Define the role and potential uses of self-reported data. Effectively communicate these as a strategy to manage expectations.	

Final Thoughts

Reactions Panel

Mike Nussman, American Sportfishing Association

This Summit had a much better tenor than the 2010 Summit and the Community is better represented. The national policy for saltwater recreational fisheries is a great idea. In addition to the action strategy developed in the final breakout session, consider the economic impacts of the national policy.

FishSmart, the Big Rock Tournament, and the Agency's economic data collection are all examples of ongoing collaborative efforts that are improving recreational fishing. Let's keep up these efforts to continue to be effective in the future.

Richard Yamada, Shelter Lodge

Enjoyment and community are a big part of recreational fishing. Though there has been significant progress nationally, more work needs to be done in the regional level to understand the cultural aspects of allocation.

Chris Horton, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation

Hats off to a great Summit! Relationships have improved, but there's still a ways to go. Management of recreational fishing should acknowledge the very different motivations, and economic, social, and cultural context from commercial fishing.

Sam Rauch, NOAA Fisheries

The tenor of this meeting indicates communication between the Agency and Community has really improved. Going forward, lets work together and collaborate to focus on:

- Communication, especially to ensure the science is relevant and understood.
- Innovation—what's next after barotrauma?
- Relationships, especially with the states around habitat and forage fish.
- Finding the balance between desired consistency and flexibility in management, and to revisit allocation frequently on a schedule.

Jim Martin, Pure Fishing

There is clearly an improvement in attitude and tone since the 2010 Summit. However, this means that the Community has higher expectations for results! Though we appreciate the work that has been done and relationships are better, policies are not better and fisheries are not better. It's time to turn our attention to creating a national policy and MSA reauthorization. We are embarking on a new era of fisheries management. By the next Summit, let's ask ourselves: Are we managing flexibly? Are we maximizing our social/economic resource? Have there been policy changes?

Closing Remarks

Key focus areas which were highlighted during discussions include:

- **Communication.** We need to do a better job of communicating on science and making science relevant to fishermen.
- **Partnerships and innovation.** We are interested in expanding partnerships with the Community. We need your guidanceon prioritizing potential areas of collaboration and identifying which will provide the greatest benefits.
- **Management.** We heard loud and clear the Community's need for stability and flexibility, including interest in exploring alternative approaches to managing recreational fisheries.

At the conclusion of the last Summit, my predecessor promised to follow Summit discussions with action. I would like to do the same thing and commit to creating a formal NOAA Fisheries Policy on Recreational Fishing.

The policy will broadly guide future actions and better integrate recreational fishing with NOAA Fisheries' mission. We will work collaboratively and transparently with the Community during development of this policy. We are also committed to working with our advisory bodies, regional offices and science centers, and constituents to build a national action plan for 2015-2019, which follows through on ideas exchanged at the Summit.

We need to continue together down the path which has moved the goal posts forward since the 2010 Summit. The issues are difficult and we will not agree on everything, but we will need to continue to work together to find cooperative solutions.

—Excerpt from Sobeck closing remarks

Appendices

Appendix A
Acronyms and Abbreviations

Agency	NOAA Fisheries
Engagement Initiative	Recreational Saltwater Fisheries Engagement Initiative
Community	Recreational Saltwater Fishing Community
2010 Summit	April 2010 Recreational Saltwater Fishing Summit
Summit	2014 Recreational Saltwater Fishing Summit
MSA	Magnuson-Stevens Act
MAFAC	Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee
ACL	Annual Catch Limit
MRIP	Marine Recreational Information Program
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
MPA	Marine Protected Areas
CCC	Council Coordination Committee
MSY	Maximum Sustainable Yield
SSC	Scientific and Statistical Committee
ABC	Available Biological Catch
CZM	Coastal Zone Management
EFH	Essential Fish Habitat
ACCSP	Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program
VTR	Vessel Trip Report
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
HMS	Highly Migratory Species
NAS	National Academy of Sciences
EFP	Exempted Fishing Permit
OY	Optimum Yield
NEPA	National Environmental Protection Agency
GMFMC	Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
FMP	Fishery Management Plan
FEP	Fishery Ecosystem Plan
AM	Accountability Measures
MEY	Maximum Economic Yield

Appendix B
Pre-Summit Survey

National Saltwater Recreational Fishing Summit
Pre-Summit Survey

MAKERS
architecture · planning · urban design

March 5, 2014

INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes responses to the January, 2014 National Saltwater Recreational Fishing Pre-Summit Survey, conducted by Summit facilitators – MAKERS architecture and urban design. The survey gathered the perspectives of Summit invitees regarding current recreational fishing conditions, challenges, and opportunities as well as progress in recreational fisheries management since the 2010 Summit. Results will inform development of the April, 2014 Summit Agenda.

I. TABULATED RESPONSES

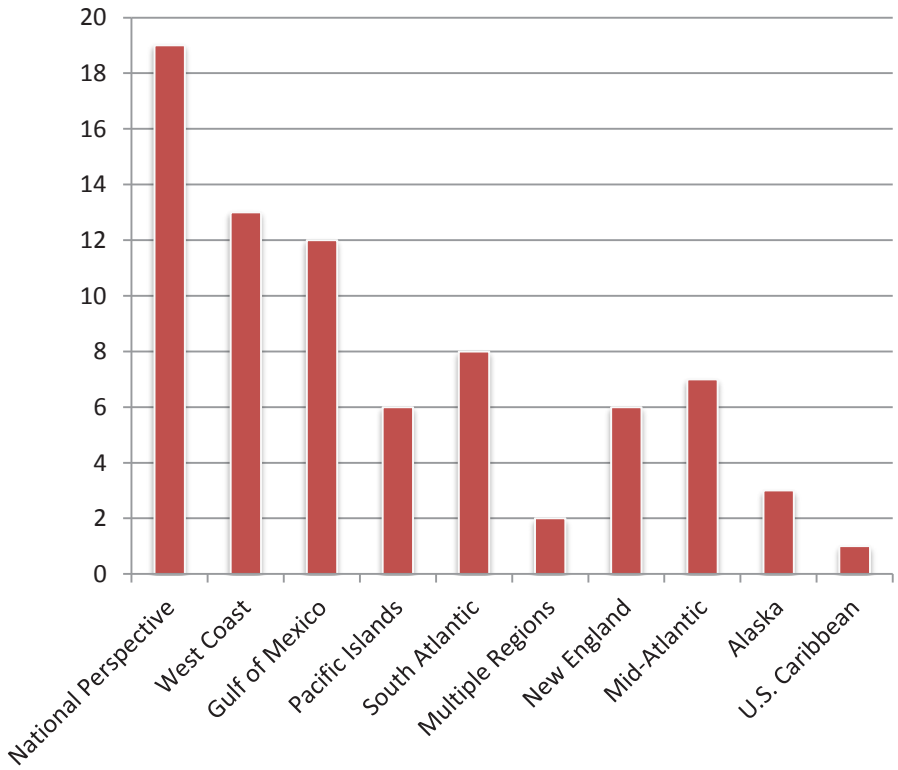
The survey was completed by 77 respondents which represent fishing community members such as individual anglers, charter boat operators, and national angling or trade organizations.

Survey Respondents

77 recreational fishing community ("***Community***") representatives completed the survey representing the regions noted below.

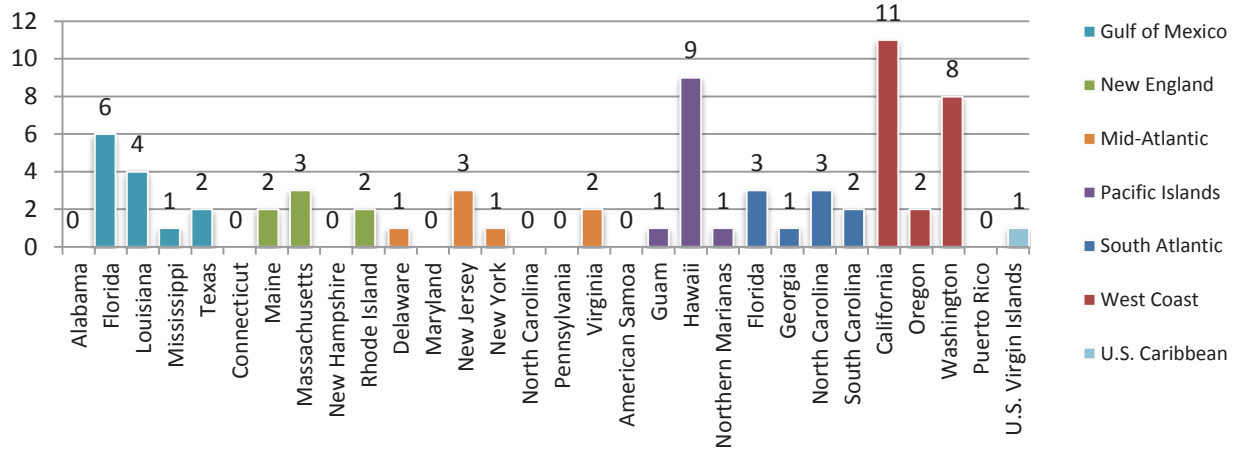
Regions Represented

What region are you representing?



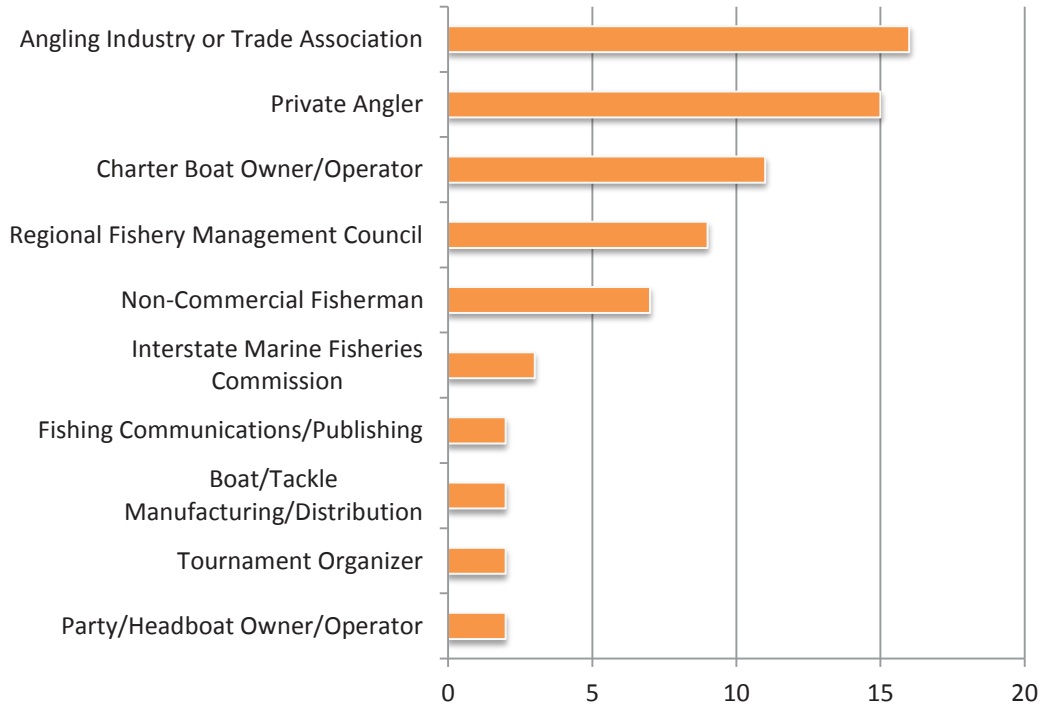
States Represented

Which state in [the region]?



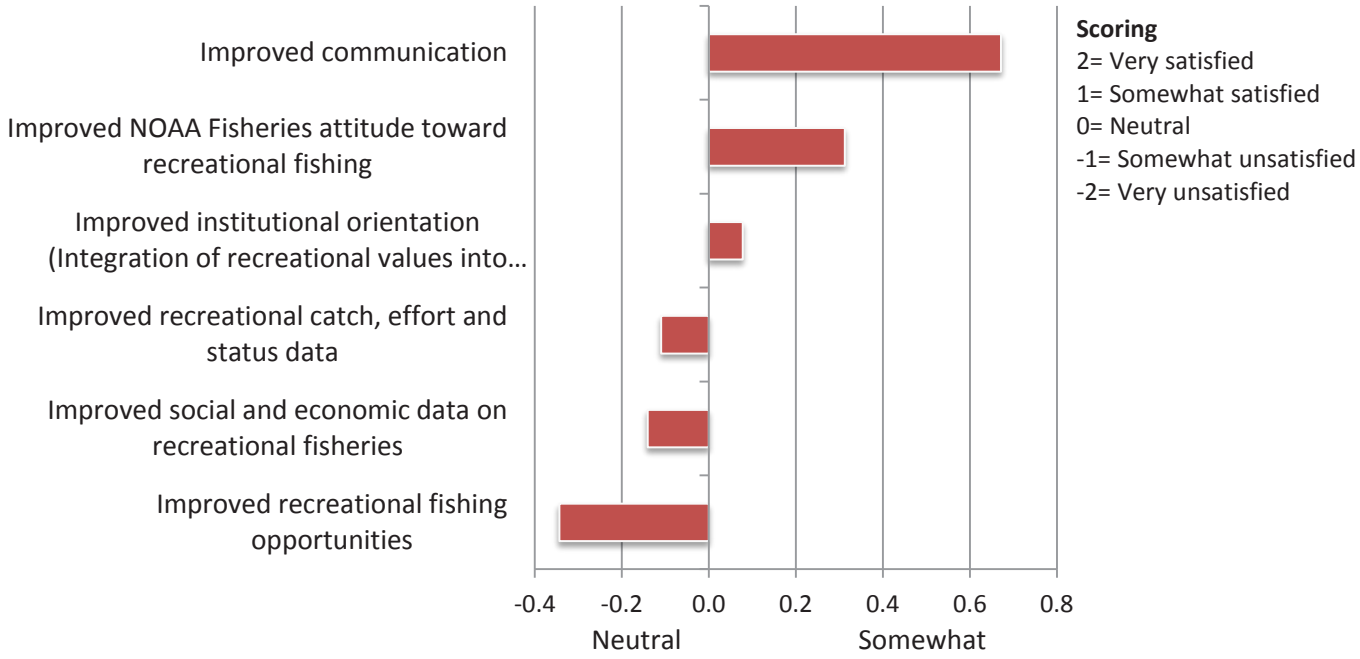
Perspectives Represented

What perspective do you primarily represent?



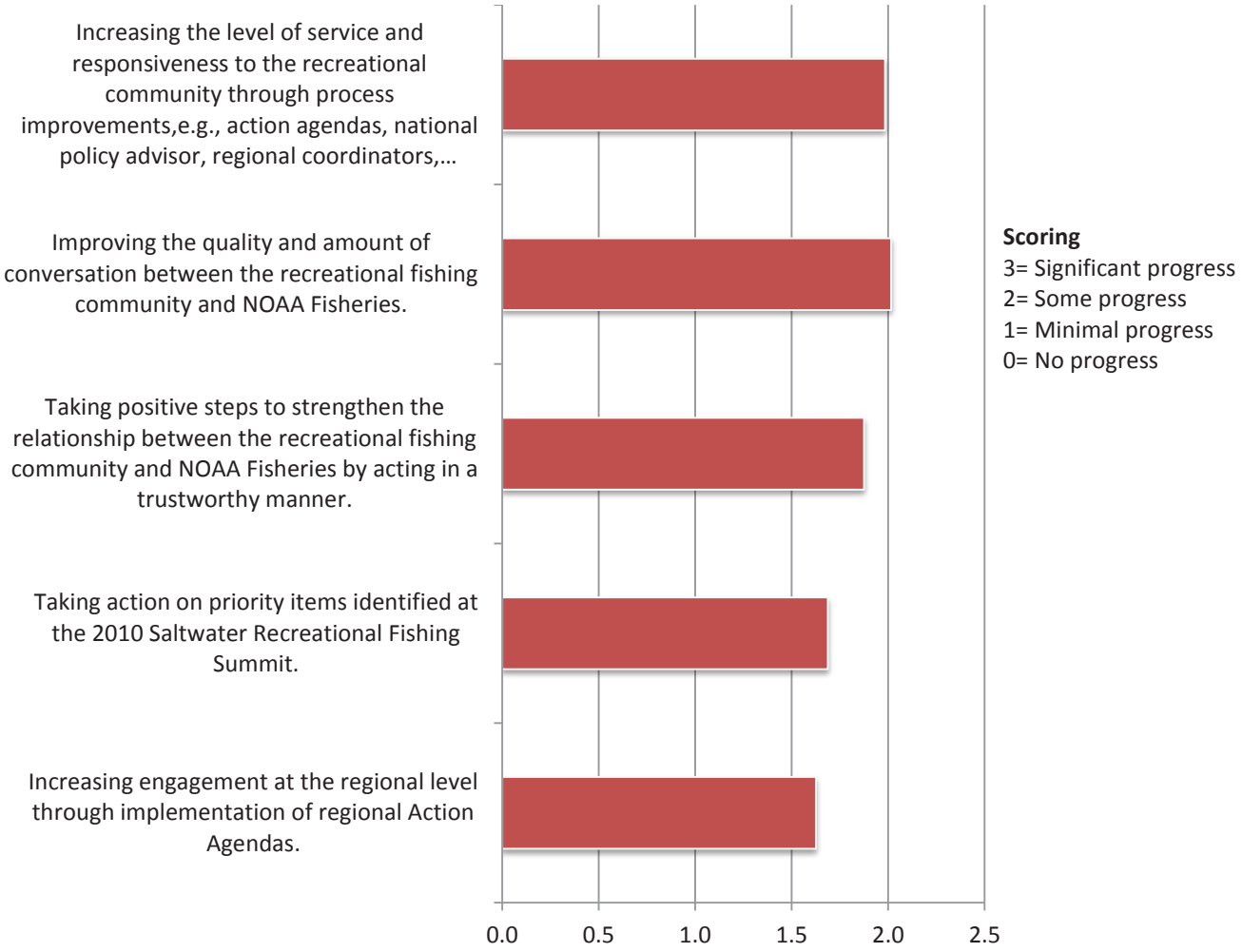
Improvement on Action Agenda Goals

In what areas have you seen progress on the Action Agenda Goals since the 2010 Summit? Please rate from "very satisfied with progress" to "very unsatisfied with progress."



Commitments from 2010 Summit

NOAA Fisheries made a number of commitments at the 2010 Summit. Please convey your perception of progress in fulfilling these commitments from "significant progress" to "minimal progress."



II. SUMMARY OF OPEN ENDED RESPONSES

The tabluations below are a general summary of the openended responses presented in Section III. Because the categorization of specific responses into general topics is somewhat subjective, the tabulations are intended to indicate general trends rather than quantifiable results.

Progress Since 2010 Summit

Please briefly describe any progress you see as particularly noteworthy since the 2010 Summit.

Area	*Not Improved*	*Improved*
Science		
Engagement	8	32
Policy		2
Actual Results	9	1

Missed Opportunities

Since the 2010 Summit, what opportunities to improve marine recreational fishing have been missed?

Catch Share	11
Data/Science	11
Policy	9
Lack of Resources	4
Communication	4
MRIP	2
Cultural	1
Fishing Industry	1

Looking Around

Tailwinds – Improvements

How has marine recreational fishing improved since 2010?

MAKERS' Comments:

- Several respondents noted improvements in stocks and opportunities, which somewhat contradicts responses to Question 1 – Responses vary by region.
- This question concerns real physical results as opposed to agency efforts evaluated in Question 1.

None	24
Fishing Opportunities	11
Engagement	10
Data/Science	6
MRIP	2
State Management	2
Institutional (NOAA)	0

Headwinds – Hindering

What is hindering progress toward improved marine recreational fishing?

MAKERS' Comments

- The responses to this question featured a lot of specific observations.
- There were a number of comments about the Agency's orientation toward commerce and allocation by the pound.
- The tabulated multiple choice responses indicated that institutional orientation and use of science and data and fisheries management processes were the two greatest hinderings toward progress.
- The more specific topic area responses noted flexible management practice (39), economic data (32), timely data collection and analysis (25), recreational fishing allocation (24) and catch and effort data (24) were the most important issues to consider.

Agency's general institutional processes	21
Agency's commercial emphasis	13
Data	11
Catch share/allocation	4
Natural limitations	4
Fishing community	3
Lack of resources	2
Environmental rules	2

Currents – External Factors

What are the most important external factors, e.g. budgetary, social, political, economic, legislative, etc., affecting saltwater recreational fishing?

MAKERS' Comments:

- There was acknowledgement that there is currently a difficult political and budgetary environment.
- Some still feel that the recreational fishing community and its contribution are not sufficiently recognized.

Political	26
Budgetary	17
Lack of recognition	6
Environmental advocacy	4
Orientation to commerce	4
Habitat loss	3
Data	3
Institutional, general	3
Technical programs ineffective	1
Social	1
Lack of recreation fish leadership	1

Looking Forward

What are the three (3) most important actions that NOAA Fisheries could take to improve marine recreational fishing?

MAKERS' Comments:

- It appears that respondents felt that the most important next actions involve catch allocation and data.
- Stock assessments, state coordination, and management changes are also important.
- There were a number of specific suggestions that merit discussion.

Responses	
Revise catch allocation methods	20
Better data	14
Stock assessments	9
Coordination with states	7
Look at other forms of management (Regional)	7
Better communication	6
Better recognition of rec. fish	6
Recreation fish advocate in regions and regional-based mgmt	5
Change MSA	5
Finish or improve MRIP	5
Reasonable latitude in stock rebuilding	5
Better representation by recreation fish community	4
More timely response to data	3
Better habitat protection	3
Better economic impact data	3
Management flexibility	2
Better science	2
Social science research	2
Support cultural activities (e.g., Pacific Islands)	2
Cooperative research	2
Moratorium on MPA's	2
Advisory Committee in NOAA	1
Revise or delete exempt fishing program	1
Revise regulatory reviews	1
Get rid of ACLS on non-assessed stocks	1
Revise incentives for sale of caught fish	1
Broaden Spanish speaking outreach	1
Manage for-hire fishing boats separately	1
Improve Angler self reporting tools	1
Regulations stability	1
Conflict resolution in councils	1
More money	1
Adaptive management	1
Lawyers to oppose environmentalists	1
Address by-catch kill	1
Contact with tackle industry	1
Amend marine mammal act	1
Hire staff with on-the-water experience	1

Most Important Recreation Fishing Actions

What are the three (3) most important actions the recreational fishing community could take to improve marine recreational fishing?

MAKERS' Comments:

- Most effective opportunities for recreational fishing community actions are "becoming more involved in the process," which appears to include a variety of policy, decision making and functional activities.
- Help with data collection activities also noted as a real opportunity.
- Nine respondents noted that better inter-community coordination was needed.
- Six respondents noted advocating for more NOAA funding and resources.

Responses	
More involvement in process	22
Better reporting and help with data collection	18
Collaboration with NMFS (generally)	10
Catch and release program	9
Internal communication (general)	9
Help NOAA secure budgets	6
Cooperative research	5
Revise MSA	4
Obey regulations	4
Work with conservation community	3
Patience	2
Reduce by-catch	2
Help with communication	2
Communication with government	2
Describe vision for fisheries	2
Support habitat restoration	2
Engage commercial fisheries	2
Argue for State/Fed management	1
Stop Walton Foundation's efforts to privitizing public resources	1
Work with MRIP	1
Smaller boats and efficient engines	1
Coast-wide management instead of state or regional	1
Support funding through licensing	1
Support MPA's	1

Successful Collaboration Examples

Are you aware of examples of real world collaboration among anglers, regulators and researchers? If so, what allowed those collaborations to succeed?

MAKERS' Comments:

- Many responses to this question were very specific. A review of the individual examples is warranted.

Vision

Please envision a future for saltwater recreational fishing in which everything is good. Please describe what this ideal future would look like. What would anglers, industry, scientists, and managers be doing different in 2020 from what they are doing today?

MAKERS' Comments:

- Community responses to this question varied widely without a clear pattern.

Info Needs

What information would you like to see provided in advance to help you prepare for the Summit?

Responses	
Agendas, abstracts	10
This survey and options for discussion	2
How Agency views itself	2
Simple briefing papers on MSA, MAFAC, RFWG	2
Future NOAA plans	1
Results of recently completed national survey of preferences	1
Look at 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s	1
List of panels	1
How rec. fish are counted	1
Resources for social economic data	1
Report catch since 2010 summit	1
Grouper and snapper info	1
Put it on webcasts	1
Cooperative research opportunities	1
Background on MSA	1

Outcomes

From your perspective, what would be the most important outcome from the Summit?

MAKERS' Comments:

- Comments emphasized collaboration activities setting a doable action agenda, a commitment for agency action, rethinking current management system and priorities and input into MSA reauthorization.
- If there is one phrase that comes from the survey input, it is: "Commitment for Collaborative Action." Another might be: "Advancing Recreational Fishing" that addresses the concerns about the Agency's institutional orientation and furthers the recognition of recreational fishing's importance.

Responses	
Set achievable goals and priorities	8
Form a more collaborative relationship	8
Commitment to complete what has been started	7
Develop a more fair allocation system	4
Better recognize importance of recreation fish community	3
Change the management system	3
Chart a course for action with measureable objectives	3
Create a structure for community participation	1
Better Gulf Coast management	1
Hold next summit in a more affordable place	1
Achieve more fishing opportunities	1
Document the results in the press to hold NOAA's feet to the fire	1
Support Pacific Island fishing	1
Have an impact on MSA update	1
Find a way to provide better data	1
Allocate more resources to regional staff	1
Prioritize support to rebuild fisheries	1

III. OPEN ENDED RESPONSES

Progress Since 2010 Summit

Please briefly describe any progress you see as particularly noteworthy since the 2010 Summit.

Region	Progress Since 2010 Summit (Community Responses)
Alaska	N/A
Alaska	Ground work on national level for recreational fishing concerns, but no visible difference on a local level.
Alaska	Better interaction between industry and council
Gulf of Mexico	Staff level employees in some areas are definitely more communicative and open.
Gulf of Mexico	More recreational angler meetings to gather input
Gulf of Mexico	MRIP moving towards implementation
Gulf of Mexico	There has been substantially enhanced engagement at the national level
Gulf of Mexico	N/A
Gulf of Mexico	None
Gulf of Mexico	The National Policy Advisor's leadership has put us in a better position to communicate and to advocate for our sector within the agency. He is an asset to NOAA.
Gulf of Mexico	N/A
Gulf of Mexico	Not a lot to my knowledge
Mid-Atlantic	Better PR announcements but little in real terms. ,
Mid-Atlantic	NONE
Mid-Atlantic	The relationship with recreational fisherman is getting better but still needs improvement
Mid-Atlantic	NE region supported the development of the Mid's omnibus amendment
National Perspective	Very little except for improved web and pamphlets, nothing substantial to improve recreational angling access
National Perspective	Much better communications and focus on what the recreation fishing industry needs.
National Perspective	There is a recreational fishing advocate in NOAA but the institutional bias For commercial is still overwhelming. Recreational fishing is commerce. Big commerce.
National Perspective	All lip service
National Perspective	Engagement and communication have significantly improved
National Perspective	Communication from NOAA much improved
National Perspective	Slightly improved communication between NOAA and recreation anglers but little substantive gains
National Perspective	I lack the time necessary to provide a meaningful response here
National Perspective	I did not personally attend the 2010 summit but did read the agendas, bulletins & pledges.
National Perspective	national coordinator, allocation study, better communication
National Perspective	Attention to and leadership engagement with recreational fishing considerations has been sustentative (i.e., NOAA Fisheries is accessible and listens).
National Perspective	N/A
National Perspective	Significant progress has been made dealing with barotrauma and highlighting "best practices" for recreational fishing.
National Perspective Other	Certainly the hiring of a national recreational fishing advisor has been an important Step forward.
National Perspective	Some headway in recognizing the significance of recreational angling, though minimal from a policy perspective.
National Perspective	Improved statistics, collection of data on socioeconomics
New England	Regional outreach has improved
New England	The National Policy Director and Staff have been particularly helpful. The creation of the

	RFWG was a step forward; a balanced membership that represents all views should be utilized going forward.
New England	there is better outreach from NMFS
New England	Communication between the NMFS Regional Office & Recreational Fishing Community Organizations
Other	particular improvement at national level weaker in regions
Other	The most significant progress has been made in the conversion from MRFSS to MRIP.
Pacific Islands	None.
Pacific Islands	Hiring of a "Recreational Specialist" / Bringing together jurisdictions to prioritize projects
Pacific Islands	We have a representative for the Pacific islands
Pacific Islands	Regional Coordinator Hiring, regional Summits, Continued group virtual meetings.
South Atlantic	Communication
South Atlantic	Did not attend 2010 Summit
South Atlantic	Did not attend summit but read transcript
South Atlantic	Communications
South Atlantic	Improvements in MRIP methodology; socioeconomic studies on recreational anglers from the NMFS Office of Science and Technology
West Coast	Better communication between NOAA and the recreational sector
West Coast	The support of Fish-Smart and the barotrauma work is very significant.
West Coast	No changes to fisheries
West Coast	I have found the Northwest region of NOAA to be very open and help for the last 10 year!!!!!
West Coast	Good outreach to the Recreational Industry with communication and sensitivity to needs.
West Coast	We are talking but NOAA needs to be hearing and understanding our concerns
West Coast	Better relationship with NMFS, as they have become more responsive to recreational fisheries issues.
West Coast	Use of descending devices for rockfish
West Coast	Better monitoring of recreational effort and harvest data on the east coast. Significantly better communication and increased engagement at the national level.
West Coast	Excellent progress in collection of economic and social data

Missed Opportunities

Since the 2010 Summit, what opportunities to improve marine recreational fishing have been missed?

Region	Missed Opportunities (Community Responses)
Alaska	N/A
Alaska	NMFS adopting a catch sharing plan that divides recreational sector and allows harvest measures to be applied differently to recreational anglers who pay for the same for a fishing license.
Alaska	We lack a full time outreach coordinator in Alaska and because of that the majority of recreation stakeholders are uninformed
Gulf of Mexico	More communication from higher levels.
Gulf of Mexico	Continued erosion of fishing seasons and bag limits in recreation sector, leading to mistrust of NOAA and their real intentions for recreation outreach.
Gulf of Mexico	Moving towards implementation quicker
Gulf of Mexico	There is substantial "wanting" for meaningful engagement at the regional level.
Gulf of Mexico	Need to end any efforts to implement catch shares in the recreational sector. This is a major problem and the opportunity to end the concept has been missed.
Gulf of Mexico	Tangible results that benefit recreational angling.
Gulf of Mexico	Dr. Lubchenco's plans to establish guidelines for regular reallocation in fisheries were

	never implemented. Hopefully, Dr. Sullivan can move us in the direction of action on this important topic.
Gulf of Mexico	N/A
Gulf of Mexico	Listen to both recreational and commercial--good luck finding a happy medium
Mid-Atlantic	The full implementation of MRIPS including vessel logs, angler registration lists and increase sample size.
Mid-Atlantic	Better data.
Mid-Atlantic	Counting recreational fish is still way off!
Mid-Atlantic	Data collect is still bad!! Too many outliers drive the system
National Perspective	No action in fishery management to support increased recreational angling opportunities
National Perspective	Still no movement on allocation
National Perspective	Better data. Better management of recreational fishing. Fewer closings. Institutionalizing Recreational Fishing in NOAA.
National Perspective	More effective actions should have been taken proactively to head off the worst of the red snapper debacle in the Gulf of Mexico.
National Perspective	None
National Perspective	Following through on some larger policy changes, e.g., allocation, NS1 review
National Perspective	Improved data
National Perspective	Adapting MSA for recreational anglers
National Perspective	I lack the time necessary to provide a meaningful response here
National Perspective	Recreation statistics and social science data still needs improvement, looking at alternative ways to manage recreation fisheries
National Perspective	Not sure.
National Perspective	N/A
National Perspective	The recreational community missed the chance to pat NMFS on the back when they did do a good job.
National Perspective	Not sure of any.
National Perspective	Recognition of anglers desires not be locked out or giving catch shares to other sectors.
New England	No movement to management practices that reflect the needs of recreational fisheries. MSY does not meet the needs of a recreational fishery.
New England	I think there were opportunities to balance the regional council membership with a more even com/recreation makeup. I don't think that happened, particularly in NE
New England	DTA still need to be greatly improved
New England	Lack of developing social economic data for use in management
Other	taking a stronger leadership role on allocation and not implementing conflict resolution to deal with the excessive gulf issues
Other	Continued effort needs to be made to have the public understand the purpose and limitations of the data collected through MRIP.
Pacific Islands	none
Pacific Islands	none that I'm aware of
Pacific Islands	cultural practices and beliefs
Pacific Islands	Our coordinator, is excellent, but has no travel budget, and can't do effective outreach in our vast region without it!
Pacific Islands	The institutional orientation that demonstrates a "walk that matches the talk". In Hawaii the asst. regional administrator for sustainable fisheries has yet to attend a council meeting or recreational coordinator meetings.
South Atlantic	Not certain
South Atlantic	Not including high-liner fishermen in the data collection and rulemaking process.
South Atlantic	gathering critical biological and catch and effort statistics
South Atlantic	Acquiring additional social scientists and economists at the regional offices and Councils to allow adequate analysis and data collection specific to the recreational sector.
West Coast	Promoting positive collaboration between the recreational and commercial sectors

West Coast	The commitment to establish a framework for sport commercial allocation has been missed.
West Coast	There has not been anything showing that any fisheries are rebuilding. All info from NOAA publically has ignored this
West Coast	The partnership between all users has been great.
West Coast	On the West Coast we are so constrained by Overfished Species (yelloweye rockfish, canary rockfish and Cowcod in So. CA) that efforts have been dampened or negated to a large degree.
West Coast	The ESA listing process needs to be reviewed and a major revamping needs to occur. There are fish on the list that should not be on the list. We need more action to start occurring while we talk
West Coast	We have struggled in our relationships with Mexico, and we have been shut out of many near-shore areas as a result of the states' Marine Life Protection Act.
West Coast	Lack of communication since the merger with the NW
West Coast	Lack of meaningful engagement from northwest regional office
West Coast	Access to rebuilding populations of rockfish off California are still severely constrained by depth and seasonal restrictions.

Looking Around

Tailwinds – Improvements Since 2010

How has marine recreational fishing improved since 2010?

Region	Improvements Since 2010 (Community Responses)
Alaska	I'm not sure that it has
Alaska	None
Alaska	It has not in Alaska
Gulf of Mexico	Has it? Lots of fisheries are still closed to fishing. Stripers are down.
Gulf of Mexico	It has not in the Gulf.
Gulf of Mexico	MRIP has examined several important areas to improve management - catch and effort, census methods, etc.
Gulf of Mexico	Some recreational fisheries (Populations) have grown permitting improved fishing
Gulf of Mexico	No tangible actions
Gulf of Mexico	The fact that most anglers expect so little out of federal fisheries management has prompted greater promotion of state management of marine resources.
Gulf of Mexico	Leadership at NMFS has been more receptive to understanding the place of recreational fishing in its management regime.
Gulf of Mexico	Local level regulations allowed
Gulf of Mexico	Yes
Mid-Atlantic	Unfortunately, it has not.
Mid-Atlantic	No
Mid-Atlantic	It really hasn't
Mid-Atlantic	Stocks in the Mid continue to rebuild giving increased opportunity
National Perspective	Very little
National Perspective	Seem to be over the hump with regard to closures
National Perspective	It hasn't.
National Perspective	It is not clear that it has.
National Perspective	loosing access to rebuilt stocks
National Perspective	From a biological standpoint, many stocks have improved.
National Perspective	Better communication of issues
National Perspective	Has not
National Perspective	Overall, I don't believe it has.
National Perspective	Overall, recreational fishing has NOT improved since 2010, but has degenerated greatly during a 7-year span.
National Perspective	better communication with managers, more responsiveness to adjusting federal requirements to rec. fisheries
National Perspective	Better data systems for understanding recreational angling participation and effort.
National Perspective	From swordfish to groundfish there are some expanded opportunities on both coasts.
National Perspective	Better angler participation data is important.
National Perspective	MRIP has resulted in better data collection.
National Perspective	The importance of recreational fishermen has been recognized and data has been better incorporated into decisions
New England	It hasn't
New England	I have not seen a measurable improvement in Recreational Fishing. I believe the foundation had been laid to work towards improved recreational fishing and we need to continue the work.
New England	It hasn't in the NE at all
New England	Marine recreational fishing has not improved since 2010

Other	Overall improvement with stocks but not always fishing as an example red snapper in gulf where fishing has been in turmoil as the stock improves
Other	Consideration has been made for flexibility in the application of ACL/AMs in the recreational fishery.
Pacific Islands	Better communication
Pacific Islands	No comments
Pacific Islands	There is more awareness in the regional Office, The Council has always been aware, The science Center has engaged in some HD projects
Pacific Islands	The regional recreational coordinator's position has been filled and communication channels opened.
South Atlantic	Communication with community
South Atlantic	We are seeing greater cooperation and communication between all parties.
South Atlantic	It has not improved due to more regulations
South Atlantic	No improvement unless you consider the economy
South Atlantic	Increased representation for recreational sector on decision-making entities (MAFAC, Councils, etc)
West Coast	Improved mortality studies on constraining species
West Coast	The economic importance is continuing to build.
West Coast	No changes in our fisheries as NOAA is cutting funding for our hatcheires in Washington State
West Coast	Somewhat
West Coast	The Recreational Community now has a direct conduit through MAFAC to the Secretary and NOAA that was not there previously.
West Coast	We have changed our way of modeling and our metrics
West Coast	Better tackle.
West Coast	Improved data collection
West Coast	From a northwest coast perspective no noticeable change. In California and at least parts of the east coast regional communication has improved partnerships established.
West Coast	Populations of depleted groundfish have been substantially rebuilt off the Pacific coast.
West Coast	Improved assessments of constraining Pacific rockfish, incorporation of barotrauma release / survivability into catch accounting and projection modeling.

Headwinds – Hindrances to Progress

What is hindering progress toward improved marine recreational fishing?

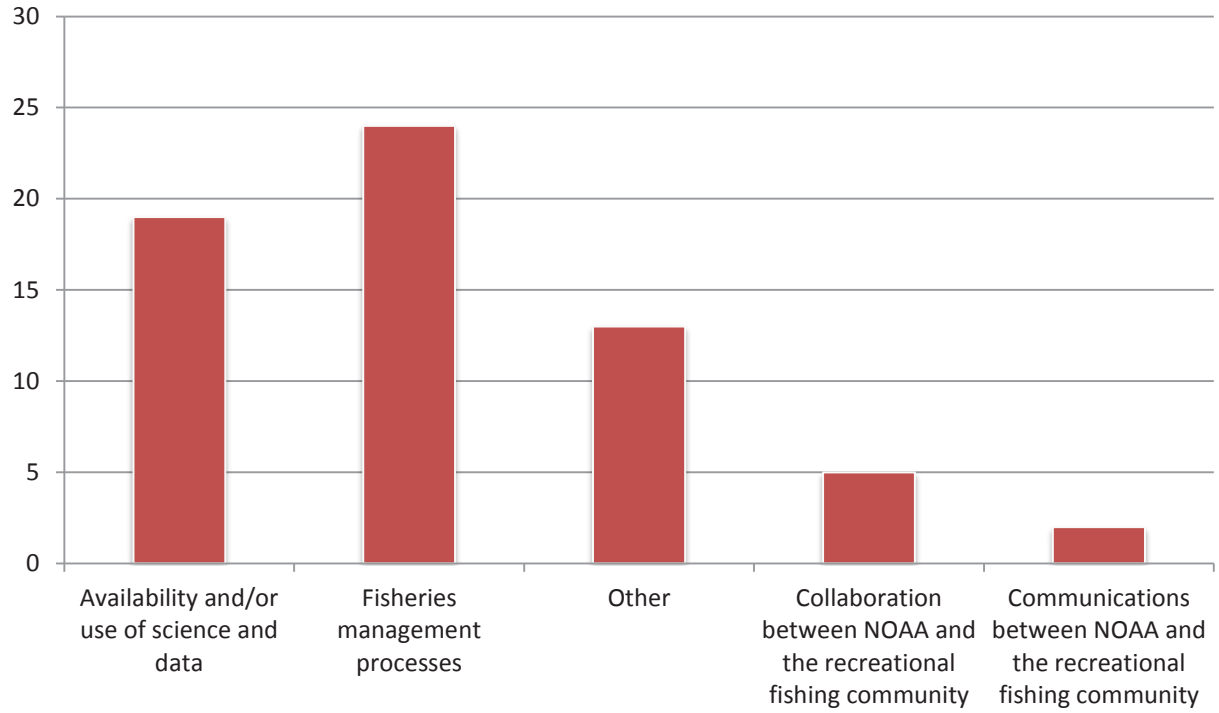
- The tabulated multiple choice responses indicated that availability and use of science & data and fishereies management process were the two greatest hinderings toward progress.
- The more specific topic area allocationings noted flexible management practice (39), economic data (32), timely data collection and analysis (25), recreational fishing allocation (24) and catch and effort data (24) were the most important issues to consider.

Region	Hindrances (Community Responses)
Alaska	A commercial dominated management process
Alaska	Lack of understanding of the needs of recreational anglers and how they need to be managed differently than the commercial fishing sector.
Alaska	Unwillingness to include all fishers in the halibut CSP
Gulf of Mexico	Bureaucracy, politics, the usual.
Gulf of Mexico	That is the big question whose answer is eluding everyone.
Gulf of Mexico	Lack of timely data;
Gulf of Mexico	Lack of timely fisheries data and analysis continues to hinder management response.
Gulf of Mexico	The access that EDF has to fisheries administrators
Gulf of Mexico	ENGOs more focused on their funding agendas than common sense.
Gulf of Mexico	Stringent regulations
Gulf of Mexico	Bureaucratic bullshit
Mid-Atlantic	A real commitment by the NE Region.
Mid-Atlantic	Data
Mid-Atlantic	Recreational surveys
Mid-Atlantic	poor data collection MRIP does not seem to be any better than MRFSS
National Perspective	Current MSA requirements and arbitrary rebuilding goals and deadlines. Little improvement in recreation data collection
National Perspective	Still no long strong vision regarding recreational fishing. Stuck on allocation issues.
National Perspective	Failure to revisit allocations. Failure to recognize the commercial importance of recreational fishing. Implementing closures on poor data.
National Perspective	Use of accurate socio-economic data in federal marine fisheries management decisions.
National Perspective	Magnuson Act, Data collection and managing recreation quotas by pounds – it doesn't work
National Perspective	We've attempted to cram recreational fishing into the current system which, driven by MSA, is geared toward commercial fishing. We need separate policy/policies within NOAA for managing recreational fisheries.
National Perspective	Accurate data
National Perspective	NOAA's institutional bias
National Perspective	That's too weighty a question to effectively answer here -- perhaps in itself indicative of one area hindering such progress: effective communication w recreational fishing community
National Perspective	budget restrictions, management process reluctance to consider change, stock assessments and social science data, rec. fishing community unwillingness to consider and embrace new ways of doing things
National Perspective	Lack of appreciation, by the average citizen, of the importance of recreational angling to the economic viability of coastal communities and their way of life.
National Perspective	A failure by industry and governance to adapt to changing demographics.
National Perspective	More flexibility on fisheries stock rebuilding schedules.
National Perspective	NOAA Fisheries' interpretation of MSA and their determination to continue managing fisheries on the commercial poundage-based model.
National Perspective	Lack of communications with politicians and other regulators at a federal level.
New England	In-trained commercial management practices. Lack of appreciation of the value

Charter Boat Owner/Operator	recreational fisheries provide
New England	Political Divides and Agendas. Horrible recreational catch and effort data, Continuing to manage the for hire industry as the same as the private angling community
New England	poor data and out dated regulations
New England	Recreational fishing is a secondary concern in Council decisions/lack of good data for management use
Other	Lack of innovative ways to manage recreation fishing when data are not real time and not revising NS 1 to give better guidance an MSA flexibilities.
Other	The expectations of the recreational community need to be calibrated with the productivity of different species.
Pacific Islands	Lack of data
Pacific Islands	No comments
Pacific Islands	Delays in Hiring staff and lack of travel $ hinder communication; Websites are not enough in our region, need face to face.
Pacific Islands	institutional orientation with a truly "regional" approach that considers the uniqueness of the Western Pacific
South Atlantic	Fuel prices, more fish
South Atlantic	The NOAA bureaucracy
South Atlantic	Management decisions are too slow and should follow science quicker
South Atlantic	economics and population pressures on the resources and habitat quality
South Atlantic	Continued necessary increase in the number of recreational anglers who are informed and involved in the process in a meaningful way. This is a two-way street and additional effort is needed on behalf of the stakeholders.
West Coast	Inflexible rebuilding policies regarding overfished species
West Coast	An outdated...stuck approach to allocation. We need a recreational policy in Magnuson and the agency work.
West Coast	Money and showing that some rockfish in our region are recovering. All shown as declining resources
West Coast Charter Boat Owner/Operator	It takes too long to address and do something about non-fishing issue (i.e. Bird, sea lions water issue, ect.).
West Coast	For the West Coast, the IFQ system is directed to the Trawl Industry and Commercial Enterprises and Recreational Fishing has minor impact at the Council levels. NMFS, the M-S Act and National Standards are written primarily for trawl and commercial interests.
West Coast	ESA. NOAA agendas, flawed science
West Coast	Strident, emotional opposition to recreational fishing by well funded protectionist environmental groups.
West Coast	More restrictions on fishable areas, less access to fish
West Coast	From my perspective I would list the commercial bias and makeup of the regional councils.
West Coast	Access to these rebuilt populations of groundfish has not increased. Access has in fact been decreased due to imposition of MPAs and further depth restrictions.
West Coast	Lack of salmon habitat restoration sufficient to sustain fishable levels of stocks, while at the same time demanding that hatchery production be curtailed in order to favor wild production.

Hindrances to Improved Marine Recreational Fishing

What category below most significantly hinders progress toward improved marine recreational fishing?



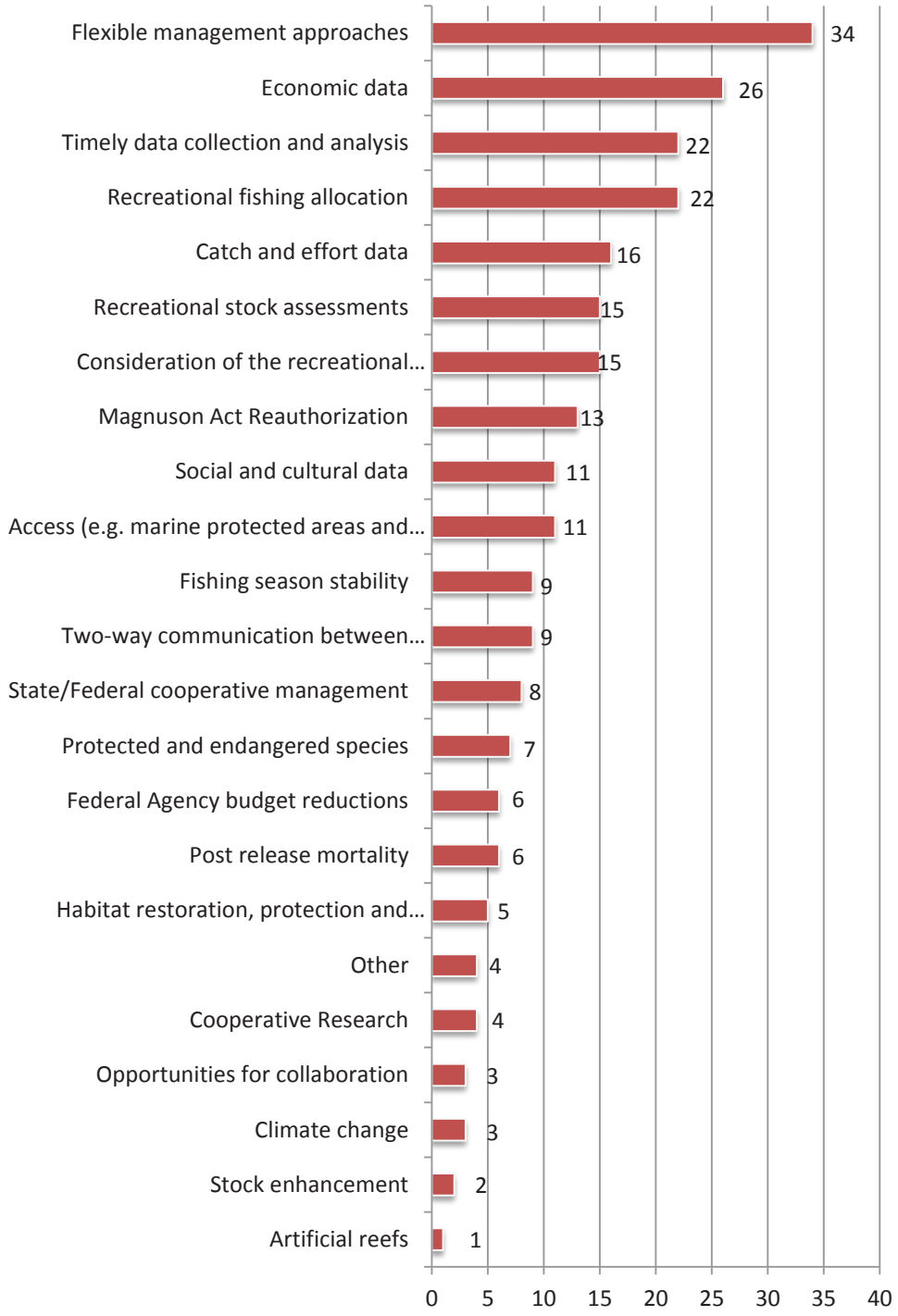
Other Responses

Community

- Rebuilding policies.
- Groups like EDF that create shell groups which pretend to represent recreational anglers but really do not.
- Stock allocation and lack of a viable regional recreational plan in the PNW region.
- Availability and/or use of BELIEVABLE science and data by stakeholders.
- Lack of leadership and support at next level above our Recreation coordinator, Siloing of different parts of regional office.
- NOAA is stuck with having a 35 year old vision of marine fisheries that is commercial in focus, hard to change that!
- All the above.
- While the process is WAY TO SLOW AND CUMBERSOME, it will work, it just isn't able to respond in a timely manner. Science and data products can always be improved.
- Actually all of the above could be improved.
- ACL, accountability measures managing by pounds zero flexibility with SSC.
- I don’t see any of these being a issue.
- Clearly defining who is a recreational fisher and then how that person is represented in the management process.
- Please put me down for a check in all categories.

Specific Issues Hindering Progress

A number of specific issues have been identified as hindering progress toward improved recreational fishing. Please check the four (4) issues you feel are most important to consider at the Summit.



Other Responses

Community

- Recreational fishing representation on Council.
- Lack of trust between commercial, recreational, and charter sectors.
- Consideration of the different recreational needs in management decisions.
- Complexity in management.

Currents – External factors

What are the most important external factors, e.g. budgetary, social, political, economic, legislative, etc., affecting saltwater recreational fishing?

Region	External Factors (Community Responses)
Alaska	Political
Alaska	Commercial fishing influences in fisheries politics.
Alaska	Budgetary and active participants serving in leadership
Gulf of Mexico	Political, budgetary
Gulf of Mexico	Political affecting negatively. Economic not being considered appropriately. Legislative not correcting broken system.
Gulf of Mexico	Lack of adequate resources to address the management of recreational fisheries (ACLs)
Gulf of Mexico	Legislative inertia: The Magnuson-Stevens Act needs to be retooled to broaden its ability to address recreational fisheries and to limit litigator liability
Gulf of Mexico	lobbying by anti-fishing groups
Gulf of Mexico	Political - the environmental community's success in picking winners and losers to drive a very narrow agenda and ultimately reduce access to marine resources.
Gulf of Mexico	Budgets will always matter. In a time of limited financial resources, it's impossible to expand the scientific mission of the agency.
Gulf of Mexico	Legislative – too many widespread regulations that do not make sense for certain areas.
Gulf of Mexico	political and legislative and the entire process; flawed data on part of NOAA
Mid-Atlantic	Budgetary
Mid-Atlantic	Not enough money.
Mid-Atlantic	Legislative!
Mid-Atlantic	MRIP is doing a poor job and we have no choice but to rely on it.
National Perspective	Legislative. The current MSA.
National Perspective	The world has changed, NOAA hasn't. NOAA loves to talk about climate change. Nobody noticed the change in the fisheries.....
National Perspective	Commercial bias within NOAA, the Magnuson Stevens Legislation. Lack of good socio-economic data on recreation fishing. Failure to force Councils to look at allocations. Lack of budget for good data and science on recreation fishing stocks.
National Perspective	Social
National Perspective	Political wacked-out green groups who have an agenda
National Perspective	Water quality, coastal development, changing demographics, effects of the economy on anglers, shrinking federal budget
National Perspective	Legislative
National Perspective	NOAA bias to commercial interests
National Perspective	Again, all of the above; however, I feel at 30K level, it's still the culture/philosophy toward recreational fisheries at NOAA and a failure to manage those fisheries in a way reflecting their economic and social importance.

National Perspective	Broken Congress & a stubborn administration is allowing showroom environmentalists to dictate the future of recreational fishing in America by way of both regulatory and legislative mandate.
National Perspective	State and federal budgets, coastal demographic changes, politics of change
National Perspective	As noted above, lack of appreciation for the value of recreational fishing in economic and legislative policy.
National Perspective	Poor recreational leadership
National Perspective	In no particular order -- access, local and regional governmental recognition of the economic and cultural values of recreational angling. ,
National Perspective	Public perceptions and powerful environmental groups that do not accurately portray recreational anglers and conservation that is driven by politics, not science.
New England	Politicians and fisheries managers refuse to realize the economic benefits of fully utilized recreational fisheries.
New England	Political Agendas, Different needs of the different recreational user groups which currently cannot be addressed fairly when managing the sector as one.
New England	the is very little political will to change the way things are done
New England	Recreational representation on management bodies/politics
Other	access based on ability to catch fish, economic limitations, implementation of MSA with too little flexibility
Other	Data collection funding and uncertainty in stock assessments
Pacific Islands	Funding & political
Pacific Islands	Lack of budgets
Pacific Islands	Political Will, Lack of recognition of major differences between Western Pacific and other regions. i.e. we have true subsistence
South Atlantic	economic - fuel prices, budgetary - need more stock assessment scientists
South Atlantic	Each of the above mentioned factors now impact recreational fishing. Unfortunately it's no longer just about how many fish are in the ocean.
South Atlantic	Political
South Atlantic	Economics and habitat and water quality
South Atlantic	Willingness (or lack thereof) to compromise to reach collective goals; misinformation among stakeholders; lack of adequate social science and economics staff at the regional offices and Councils for analysis and data collection for all stakeholder groups
West Coast	Funding and political.
West Coast	The lack of resources in the future, as the budget cuts continue.
West Coast	Not being up to date on positive recovering fisheries when happening.
West Coast	Funding of hatchery's
West Coast	Budget (Funding for hatcheries in the NW) political (ESA)
West Coast	Budgetary, political and legislative. Most legislative problems are at state level.
West Coast	Political, California has an anti fishing political climate
West Coast	political and economic
West Coast	Bureaucratic inertia by NOAA general counsel due to fear of lawsuit by Environmental NGOs. Also inflexibility of rebuilding plans due to the structuring of Magnuson-Stevens Act.
West Coast	The initiative to set aside NO fishing areas - MPAs - is not based on sound science, but on dogma that favors protection over sustainability

Looking Forward

Most Important NOAA Fisheries Actions

What are the three most important actions that NOAA Fisheries could take to improve marine recreational fishing?

Most Important NOAA Fisheries Actions (Community Responses)			
Region	**Action 1**	**Action 2**	**Action 3**
Alaska	Provide a recreational advisory committee in NOAA regional offices	Provide funding for a recreational fishing advocate in local regions	Provide changes in MSA that elevates recreational fishing as a national benefit
Alaska	Better communication	Flexibility in mgmt	Better representation
Gulf of Mexico	communications	better data & more timely	more stock assessments
Gulf of Mexico	Allocating adequate resources to the collection of recreational data	Increasing the speed and efficiency of incorporating improvements	Working with state partners to maximize the benefit of limited resources
Gulf of Mexico	Pursue electronic reporting	Establish ranges of allowable catch rather than specific targets	Accept greater margins of error in recreational stock assessments
Gulf of Mexico	end the concept of allocating catch shares in the recreational fishery	end the concept that splitting shares between CHB and private anglers is a good idea	focus on timely data gathering and stock assessment
Gulf of Mexico	Engage the National Research Council or some other independent agency to develop allocation guidelines and mandate that the Councils reallocate on a regular, timely basis.	Delete or greatly restrict the Exempted Fishing Permit program, which is being laughably abused.	Allocate resources to conduct annual stock assessments to recreationally important stocks so managers base decisions on the condition of the stock rather than trying to count every fish caught. Make the management system fit the data you have instead of trying to base your management system on data you'll never have.
Gulf of Mexico	Require regular looks at allocation in every fishery (esp. mixed-use fisheries)	Openness to shared management with states and interstate commissions	Latitude in rebuilding
Gulf of Mexico	Allow states to manage certain species	More on water research	Let the rec. anglers work directly with the NOAA biologists
Mid-Atlantic	Elevate to equal status of Commercial fishery.	Do what you say.	Provide more attention to habitat protection and enhancement.
Mid-Atlantic	Better stock assessment	better recreational data	Money spent on getting better recreation economic data
Mid-Atlantic	Seasons.	Bag limits.	More improved population surveys
Mid-Atlantic	Finish MRIP implementation	.	.
Mid-Atlantic	reconsider accountability measures because MRIP does not reflect what is occurring	require the elimination of annual reviews and move towards 3-5 year regulations and reviews	recognize the future of fishing in the US is recreational

National Perspective	support substantial changes to the MSA that allow flexibility in management	move recreation fisheries away from commercial fishery style management	cooperative independent research using for-hire vessels and private recreation vessels
National Perspective	Develop guidelines and force councils to deal with allocation issues	Get better economic regarding the recreational sector.	Achieve reasonable latitude in stock rebuilding times
National Perspective	Get rid of ACLs on fish stocks that have not been assessed and implement more flexible management	Do stock assessments	Force Councils to look at allocations
National Perspective	Work with regional councils to see that reallocation considerations are actually made on a regular basis	Provide regional councils with timely and accurate socio-economic data for use in management decisions	Look to other forms of fishing and hunting management for more efficient and proven methods for management
National Perspective	Establish a process for reallocation	Develop and implement alternative management strategies for recreational fishing	More frequent and better prioritized stock assessments
National Perspective	Better and timely fishing data	Allocate resources based on economic impact	more flexibility in MS
National Perspective	Done with this survey		
National Perspective	Ask me at the end of the conference.		
National Perspective	more timely catch / effort data, including embracing electronic self reporting	more social science research	critical examination of new ways to manage recreational fishing
National Perspective	Provide more flexibility for stock rebuilding schedules	Lead on the allocation issue -- promote regional discussion unto that end	Improve messaging about the value of recreational angling to economic and social fabric of this country.
National Perspective	Spend time with recreational fishermen not just industry leaders	Remove any incentives for the sale or barter of recreational caught fish	Broaden your outreach in Spanish
National Perspective	Develop a different management model for recreation fisheries	Re-examine allocations based on current economic, social and environmental factors.	Give management to the states where appropriate.
New England	Validate the economic value of recreation fisheries	Allow recreational access to fisheries	Utilize management practices that provide quality recreation fisheries
New England	Manage the for hire sector separately from the private angling sector	Develop models that use/allow angler self reporting tools to help in data collection	Facilitate opportunities for an equal representation of recreational fishermen to meet and develop solutions collaboratively
New England	better allocations	more flexibility	stability in regulations
New England	Increase representation on management bodies	Develop economic impact science/data	Stabilize and completely implement MRIP
Other	help improve MSA for	better instill the new	develop a new approach to

	recreations	recreation philosophy from headquarters in the regions	collaboration and conflict resolution within the councils
Pacific Islands	Communication	Education & Outreach	More opportunities
Pacific Islands	Improved data collection	support cultural (Pacific Islands) practices and beliefs	allow take on specific species for cultural practices in the Pacific Islands
Pacific Islands	Support Coordinators with outreach and travel $	Make ACL more realistic and flexible	Get more timely data
Pacific Islands	An institutional orientation complementary of stated goals and objective	Common sense approaches inclusive of fishery participant input and advice	A budget that fulfills its goals
South Atlantic	Take seriously economic returns and compatibility with conserving fish	Greater allocations	Hire many more stock assessment scientists
South Atlantic	better and more accurate data collection	Flexibility in rebuilding stocks	use of adaptive management
South Atlantic	Better and more timely data	Include fishermen in the management process	Many bottomfish species in great shape but no fishing is allowed
South Atlantic	Work more closely with the state agencies who are closer to constituents	Implement cooperative research efforts with the fishery	Gather more biological data for stock assessments
South Atlantic	Increased collection of recreation landings information or individual reporting to augment MRIP estimates	Additional social scientists and economists in the regions and at the Council to increase data collection on recreational demographics and issues	requirements for reporting, registration, and other data collection for private recreational anglers
West Coast	More cooperative research. i.e.; greater support of EFP's	Greater local control of management	More robust defense against protectionist litigation
West Coast	Implement regional plans in each region.	fix the stuck allocation system	work more closely with the states on management, including deferring to states in some cases
West Coast	Take harvest control on Terns and Cormorants	Increase Hatchery production	Increase hatchery Production
West Coast	Shift of emphasis of the M-S Act and National Standard from Commercial to include recreational value to the nation.	By-catch damage to non-targeted species. i.e. Halibut kill by trawl and Pollock industry.	Socio-economic parity of recreational value to commercial export value.
West Coast	Place a Moratorium on any future MPA's	Allow hatchery raised brood stock fish to spawn naturally with wild fish. Enhance stocks not split them	Fund Hatcheries and artificial reef program to rebuild saltwater habitat
West Coast	Better and more timely data and stock assessments.	More interaction with anglers on the water.	More contact with representatives of tackle industry.

West Coast	Amend the MMPA	Hire staff with on the water experience	Spend time with recreational fishermen
West Coast	Achieve a balanced recreational and commercial representation on the management councils	Continue to improved recreational catch and effort data	Allocation based on economics
West Coast	Use more flexible rebuilding plans.	Avoid "following the noise" when determining harvest guidelines	Allow individual fishery management councils to tailor rebuilding plans to specific areas.
West Coast	Focus salmon hatchery operations on sustaining fisheries rather than insisting wild fish are more important UNTIL there is sufficient habitat restoration to sustain wild stocks at fishable levels	Oppose the MPA movement with its current focus on protection rather than sustainability	Improve science of stock assessment, catch accounting / forecasting, and economic impact analysis

Most Important Community Actions

What are the three most important actions the recreational fishing community could take to improve marine recreational fishing?

Most Important Recreational Fishing Community Action (Community Responses)			
Region	**Action 1**	**Action 2**	**Action 3**
Alaska	Better educate anglers to the needs and benefits of better recreational catch reporting		
Alaska	Equal bag limits for sport and for hire	More involvement in the process	Better catch accountability
Gulf of Mexico	Help NOAA secure the necessary budgets	Provide feedback about priority needs	Help collect data
Gulf of Mexico	Participate in data collection activities to ensure accurate data are collected	Understand that implementation of improvements takes time	
Gulf of Mexico	Preach the importance of accurate and timely reporting	Encourage self regulatory compliance	Lobby for regional State-Federal management
Gulf of Mexico	Generate a more cohesive lobby	Participate in data collection	Become more entrenched in the process, throw more resources into lobbying
Gulf of Mexico	Convince the Walton Foundation to cease funding efforts to privatize public marine resources.	Succeed in having MSA adopt new/separate guidelines for the management of recreational fisheries.	Continue efforts to eliminate bycatch from destructive commercial fishing gear.
Gulf of Mexico	Better educate angler advocates (citizen scientists)	Help to better educate managers	Get engaged in regulatory and legislative arenas
Gulf of Mexico	Abide by slots and limits	Get involved	Stay involved
Mid-Atlantic	Cooperation in research	Catch and release program	Work more closely with MRIP
Mid-Atlantic	Recreational registry	Reporting your catch	More regulations on reporting
Mid-Atlantic	Work in a constructive manner	Support expanded funding	

	with NMFS	for NMFS	
National Perspective	Support change to the MSA to allow more flexibility in management and manage recreation fisheries by calculating mortality compared to overall biomass	Support cooperative independent data research	Get more involved in fishery management
National Perspective	Speak with one voice	Prioritize	
National Perspective	Get Congress to mandate changes in Magnuson Stevens Reauthorization		
National Perspective	Release mortality reduction	More effective communications with decision makers at various levels of federal government	Articulate with specificity what well managed recreational and mixed use fisheries can and should look like
National Perspective	Use tools and techniques to improve the survivability of caught and released fish	Aid in data collection	Be more active in management processes
National Perspective	Assisting in better data from Recreation sector		
National Perspective	Done with this survey		
National Perspective	Ask me at the end of the conference!		
National Perspective	Be more willing to look at the responsibility of the recreation community to look at new ways of managing, including accountability	More dialogue, shared goals with conservation community, other stakeholders	Look for more positive, forward looking initiatives as compared with negative, looking back
National Perspective	Look for successful collaboration and celebrate it.	Support habitat restoration funding and management programs.	
National Perspective	Think - not only about catching fish, but how I can best minimize any of the potential adverse consequences of my part in the whole process.	Teach conservation by example to both young and new anglers	Balance opportunity with protein.
National Perspective	Get more engaged with MSA reauthorization		
New England	Help provide good and timely catch and effort data	Become more engaged in the fisheries management process	engage in dialogs with commercial counterparts in shared fisheries
New England	Buy into the mindset that providing accurate data in a timely manner is helpful.	Put aside self-serving agendas and work to create management tools that help all recreation fishermen equally	Engage in the management process with more consistency and bring legal, fair solutions to the table
New England	be more aware of changes in regulations	attend more meetings	fill out log books for better catch data
New England	Increase representation on	Recreational organizations	Participate in developing

	management bodies	must learn to work together	cooperative research
Other	better participation in fish management process	better communication among recreation community	reduce release mortality through new technologies
Pacific Islands	Provide data on catches	Collaborating with Management & policy makers	Understanding the process
Pacific Islands	Implement cultural fishing practices	developing best fishing management through partnership with fishermen	involve the fishing community in the policy making process
Pacific Islands	Educate themselves about the Management Process (state and federal!)	Engage in the management process, go to meetings, speak up, educate peers	Write simple plain language, info on regulatory actions pending, club newsletters, Regional Fishing mags
Pacific Islands	Continued presence and participation in recreation fisheries meetings and matters - don't give up!	Continue participation in cooperative research initiatives	Make your existence known to your Congressional delegation.
South Atlantic	Smaller boats, more efficient engines	Communicate more about party boat and charter boat options	PSAs about the benefits from being outdoors fishing - cooler than video games and junk food
South Atlantic	Use of appropriate devices to reduce barotrauma	Assist in providing timely, accurate catch data	
South Atlantic	Give more data but is hard to do when it seems to be used against us. It seems scientists or regulators don't use or want to hear success stories	better communications with state and federal agencies	manage stocks on coast wide basis not state or regional
South Atlantic	Support funding (license all users)	Support MPA's but on a site by site basis where scientifically sound	Support habitat restoration and artificial reefs
South Atlantic	be informed and involved--take advantage of the myriad ways NOAA and the Councils work to make info available (email and mailing lists, social media, etc)	private recreational anglers should be willing to provide detailed information about catch and effort	collaborate with NMFS to find ways to build stakeholder trust in the science
West Coast	Get involved	Fund the representation	Self monitor regulatory compliance
West Coast	Improved coordination between fishing groups and industry	Deal with the reality of growing demand and stable resource availability	Better communications on things like recompression and barotrauma reduction.
West Coast	Go to meetings and give input	Be more forth coming of fishing info	Be involved learn what goes into the season setting process
West Coast	Improve government/private research project to provide better population data and biology gaps.	Reduce non-target mortality by funding release devices and public education.	Public Education to change angler's attitudes from harvesting every fish that is allowed to one of personal consumption. Avoid greed and wastage.
West Coast	Assist with 2 and 3 above	Conduct angler education	Volunteer to help

West Coast	Adopt regular use of descending devices.	Get better educated on reasons for actions by Regional Councils.	Take only what they need, and release the rest. "Ethical Angling."
West Coast	Respond to data collection requests	Be better organized politically	Work with commercial interests for common goals
West Coast	Reduce by-catch and associated mortality	Better collaboration between different recreational sectors	Improve communication with state and federal managers
West Coast	Learn proper and timely recompression techniques for releasing groundfish.	Continue to support catch and release fisheries	Devise methods to increase catch accountability and reporting
West Coast	Embrace the emerging techniques/gear development to avoid critical stocks and to reduce discard mortality of regulatory discards	Support those management actions that are solidly based on science	Get involved in the fishery management process (RFMPs) to effectively make the changes that are impacting the recreational fishing experience.

Successful Collaboration Examples

Are you aware of examples of real world collaboration among anglers, regulators and researchers? If so, what allowed those collaborations to succeed?

Region	Successful Collaboration Examples (Community Responses)
Alaska	Funding and industry acceptance
Gulf of Mexico	N/A
Gulf of Mexico	No
Gulf of Mexico	Open communications
Gulf of Mexico	Yes: LA Wildlife and Fisheries, RFRI, and private anglers participate together in hosting fishing rodeos. Good open communication amongst the groups
Mid-Atlantic	A trust between anglers and the agency.
Mid-Atlantic	Bag it, notch it, check it, tag it program - Telecheck record
Mid-Atlantic	NYS Sea Grant post release mortality studies
National Perspective	Sedar process in the southeast, providing recreation anglers access to observe and provide real world experiences
National Perspective	Trust, happens all the times in the states.
National Perspective	Use of release tools in CA's rockfish fishery. Succeeded because the PFMC embraced it and trust was built among anglers, scientists and managers
National Perspective	Done with this survey
National Perspective	Some, when a genuine interest/commitment was shown on/by all sides coupled with at least some initial TRUST.
National Perspective	shared goals, understanding language used, willingness to listen
National Perspective	MNFS work with fishermen and scientists on addressing barotrauma: Fish Smart, The Sport-fishing Conservancy and NERO on Best Practices and
National Perspective	Not as much in saltwater as there is for inland freshwater fisheries, where such collaboration is common practice. Communication and trust are invariably the keys to success.
New England	Maine recreation fishers have an excellent collaboration with MRIP through our state agency. Open and trusting dialogs have made this possible.
New England	The ACCSP handheld data collection project: The project was conceived by industry and industry was involved in all phases of project design and implementation.
New England	Electronic log books for the for-hire boats
New England	RI Party Charter Assn. electronic data collection program / cooperation from all involved and leadership
Other	yes leadership to implement collaboration, use of professionals in facilitation and collaboration, persistence, and enough time to reach a collaborative state
Pacific Islands	Not aware
Pacific Islands	It doesn't, the lack of trust with the regulatory agency and the fishing community
Pacific Islands	Many in our region, mostly because a few Individuals who cared went the extra mile. Example: American Samoa, CNMI Monument fishing regulations allowing Non-commercial fishing to include Customary Exchanging
South Atlantic	Funding from outside government in most cases
South Atlantic	The collaboration of the California Charter Boat Association and NOAA working together on a cow cod(rock fish) barotrauma project
South Atlantic	No
South Atlantic	Yes. Good vision and leadership

South Atlantic	No
West Coast	Yes. All of the heavy lifting was done by the anglers and the local state agency
West Coast	Good collaboration on barotrauma research in Southern California. Good relationships between fleet and researchers.
West Coast	The PFMC process in a great example of that.
West Coast	Yes, our local angler group has funded studies with our local University to study halibut Age/Wgt relationships and population's dynamics. Funding for salmon habitat improvements in local rivers and estuaries.
West Coast	Providing Descended devices for Anglers in the NW
West Coast	Sport fishing Association of California (SAC) is a leader in this collaboration.
West Coast	Use of angler knowledge.
West Coast	Good communications and active engagement of managers to form partnerships.
West Coast	Yes. Proper funding for researchers, enthusiastic engagement of researchers with anglers. Researchers being enthusiastic anglers, themselves.

Vision

Please envision a future for saltwater recreational fishing in which everything is good. Please describe what this ideal future would look like. What would anglers, industry, scientists, and managers be doing different in 2020 from what they are doing today?

Region	Vision (Community Responses)
Alaska	For Alaska, the recreational fishery is united and managed under one set of regulations. Regulators are aware that there is need for flexibility in managing a recreational fishery to a TAC.
Alaska	Having allocations being adequate in times of average abundance to be consistent and with traditional bag limits. Real time catch-reporting. Agency outreach.
Gulf of Mexico	Collecting more timely data w/ cooperation from the fishing public; conducting more robust stock assessment on an annual basis.
Gulf of Mexico	It would look like state management of inshore marine species.
Gulf of Mexico	Working together toward common goals (agreeing on the common goals is the tough part).
Mid-Atlantic	Work much closer together so there is mutual trust.
Mid-Atlantic	We take the management of recreation fisheries away from NOAA.
Mid-Atlantic	Everyone working together rather than a "us and them" attitude. Consider industry regulations differently.
Mid-Atlantic	"Everything" will never be totally "good." If tough decisions are made with precise data in an open way, then I think management is doing what it should.
Mid-Atlantic	Seasons, size, bag limits do not change every year. In place for 3-5 years. Require certain forms of tackle to minimize post release mortality. Support youth angling programs.
National Perspective	Abundant stocks, reasonable allocations, reasonable, stable seasons, with a community that is working with the regulators to improve the experience.
National Perspective	Noted in previous answers.
National Perspective	You guys are dreaming - No green groups.
National Perspective	Improved collaboration and allocation of resource protecting it for future generations.
National Perspective	Done with this survey.
National Perspective	Regretfully I'm out of time on this; better no answer than a hastily written, insufficiently thoughtful response.
National Perspective	Better data - better social science integration - more dynamic allocation process - better willingness of recreational community to look at new ways of managing, i.e. don't try to

	manage back to 1998.
National Perspective	Talking.
New England	Ideally if the stocks were in better shape there would be less effort on some of the over fished stock and less effort on the rebuilt stocks. It is very easy to exceed catch targets in both case but for very different reasons
Pacific Islands	"Recreational Fishing" would be redefined as "Non-Commercial", I think we (Recreational fishing community) are making progress and are heading in the right direction we just need to maintain the drive and see it through.
South Atlantic	Informed stakeholders, adequate data collection on recreational catch, and great communication.
West Coast	One half of the political barriers have been removed. The rest would take care of itself.
West Coast	Better anticipation of problems to begin solving early. Better social and economic data. More stability in season expectations. More flexible allocation systems. Regional plans with specific goals and regular dialogue.
West Coast	I think we need to get the Recreation groups to be use for more research Info learn how NOAA can use it and apply it to new fishing Ideas.
West Coast	Summer long seasons with conservative limits. Management will be collaborative with users.
West Coast	More Cooperative research.
West Coast	Active engagement in management using best available science with best economic utilization to achieve long-term conservation goals.

Information Needs

What information would you like to see provided in advance to help you prepare for the Summit? (If you know of a source that would be useful to others, please note the online link with a description of the initiative.)

Region	Information needs (Community Responses)
Alaska	Sharing sessions on recreational fishing activities that are aimed at improving the recreational fishing experience.
Alaska	Not sure.
Gulf of Mexico	Future NOAA plans, where limited budgets have impacted efforts, etc.
Gulf of Mexico	Results, regionally displayed, of the recently completed national survey of marine recreational fisheries preferences.
Gulf of Mexico	Can't get to summit.
Gulf of Mexico	Rather than a listing of everything that NMFS has said they would do in the new Administration, let's see what the agency has actually done.
Gulf of Mexico	Results of this survey and future regulations for consideration
Mid-Atlantic	Go back in time (1960's 70s' and 80's) and determine what programs were successful.
Mid-Atlantic	List of panels since I do not want to waste my time and money
Mid-Atlantic	How the recreational fish are counted.
Mid-Atlantic	Agenda, abstracts of presentations.
National Perspective	The website would include all available presentations, papers, etc to be used at the summit.
National Perspective	Summary of what the agency is doing for recreation, what it views as the limitations, and the recreation community can help achieve progress

National Perspective	What are the current resources available in NOAA Fisheries to provide socio-economic data to the regional councils?
National Perspective	The agenda and any related info but in summary/abstract form (time to read long research reports just won't happen).
National Perspective	Summary of progress since last summit, summary of MSA proposals, MAFAC recreation fisheries S/C recommendations, TRCP Commission recommendations.
National Perspective	A summary of this survey.
New England	Report card on NOAA's progress since rge 2010 summit. Road blocks encountered since the 2010 summit.
New England	The agenda and a briefing book.
New England	Tough to answer without and agenda. A detailed agenda and briefing book would be good.
Other	Presentations.
Pacific Islands	Topics to be discussed.
Pacific Islands	Agenda and topics of discussions.
Pacific Islands	simple briefing materials on progress toward MSA re-organization, MAFAC RFWG "White Paper", Simple Briefing on Council process and role of science, good and bad.
Pacific Islands	What "institutional orientation" initiatives NOAA Fisheries has defined to improve its commitment to recreational fisheries and fishermen of the nation.
South Atlantic	Issues, if delinated, that will be discussed and by category of fish - reef, coastal, HMS, etc.
South Atlantic	Broad question would like more information on SAMFC grouper, snapper latest stock assessment and where those numbers were obtained.
South Atlantic	Not sure.
West Coast	Not attending.
West Coast	Rate of growth in recreational fishing last 20 years projected into the next 20 years – as compared to jobs in the commercial sector.
West Coast	All the supporting Documents on the Agenda.
West Coast	A priority list of what the focus of the Summit will be so that the time spent can be used most efficiently.
West Coast	Make this available on webcast. Agenda sent out and those who cannot attend be able to comment.
West Coast	Latest status of stocks important to anglers nationwide.
West Coast	Cooperative research opportunities.
West Coast	Goals of summit and discussion topics scheduled to meet those goals.
West Coast	Provide history and background on the Magnusson-Stevens Act.

Summit Outcomes

From your perspective, what would be the most important outcome from the Summit?

Region	Desired Outcomes (Community Responses)
Alaska	An action item that would create regional recreational fishing committees, advocates, liaisons, or other means for representation in policy making bodies selected from recreational fishing stakeholders.
Alaska	A set of truly achievable goals.
Gulf of Mexico	A clear, concise list of priorities agreed upon by the community.
Gulf of Mexico	Development of relationships among fishing public and scientists to allow for collaboration.
Gulf of Mexico	Recognition and commitment that the recreational community has to step up to establish more effective management. Collaboration and support, financially and politically, are essential to any significant further progress.
Gulf of Mexico	Ending any potential for catch shares in the recreational fishery.
Gulf of Mexico	Something beneficial to recreational angling that actually trickles down through NMFS and has a positive impact at the Gulf Council.
Gulf of Mexico	Progress to building a management-as-partner relationship.
Gulf of Mexico	Common goals on future fishing controls amongst governing bodies, recreation and community anglers.
Mid-Atlantic	Complete what you have committed to doing.
Mid-Atlantic	To hold it in a place that is more affordable.
Mid-Atlantic	A great relationship between recreational fisherman and NOAA; meaning there seems to be a great deficit between populations, estimates, and abundances; if we could all be on the same page, it would help bridge the gap between "research" and "industry."
Mid-Atlantic	Better working relationship between NMFS and the recreational community, amend Magnuson to reflect the improved relationship, i.e. annual accountability measures.
National Perspective	A serious change to the current management system regarding recreation fisheries.
National Perspective	Setting 5 goals that can be accomplished over the next 3 years.
National Perspective	Real change in the manner in which NOAA manages and respects recreational fishing.
National Perspective	Consensus on near term actions NOAA Fisheries could be taking and some long term issues that could be dealt with in MSA reauth or administratively.
National Perspective	A commitment from NOAA to implement top priorities (e.g., allocation, alternative management) with timetable, list of actions required, etc.
National Perspective	Improved flexibility in MS with better data collection in Recreation sector to provide a more fair allocation process.
National Perspective	Done with this survey.
National Perspective	More opportunities for better recreational fishing experiences for more saltwater anglers in this country.
National Perspective	Better communication, understanding among various interests.
National Perspective	Stronger relationships across all sectors of the recreational fishing community in its broadest sense.
National Perspective	For the recreational outdoor press to give a broad, accurate accounting of the summit so that leadership's feet are held to the fire along with NMFS.
National Perspective	An appropriate paradigm shift in how NOAA Fisheries manages the recreational sector, based on a set of cooperatively developed, well defined and reasonable management goals and approach.
New England	Increased respect of the value of fully utilized recreational fisheries.
New England	Having the public feel like they were being listened to.
New England	I would like to feel real progress was made as opposed to feeling as if summit was political window-dressing.

Other	Better collaboration within recreation community and NOAA with trust at Regional levels. A commitment to tackle the big outcomes of the meeting.
Pacific Islands	That we continue to address the action plan.
Pacific Islands	Supporting the Pacific Islands fishing goals and objectives.
Pacific Islands	Resolutions that positively impact MSA reauthorization, and gain more recognition at all levels of the economic and non-economic social and cultural value of recreational fishing.
Pacific Islands	A true commitment from NOAA in terms of institutional orientation, budgets and actions commensurate with its "talk."
South Atlantic	Helping chart a path forward for recreational fishing to provide more access and of course better fishing. Also, possibly provide input for the reauthorization of MS.
South Atlantic	Accurate and more timely data to make decisions.
South Atlantic	Realistically- better communication among all fishery participants and some consensus on issues.
South Atlantic	Meaningful goals and action items that benefit the public and resource as a whole, not just beneficial to the recreational sector.
West Coast	No attempts to take allocation from other sectors. Stick with uniquely recreational issues.
West Coast	A new agenda, carried out at the national and regional levels...regular, improved communications.
West Coast	Keeping improving the communications and applying new Ideas.
West Coast	That goals identified be measurable and attainable with specific target dates and metrics for success.
West Coast	A change of direction and attitude from NOAA.
West Coast	Clearly state the value of recreational angling to the nation in terms of dollars and jobs.
West Coast	Commitment to full time recreational staff for research and outreach in regions and centers.
West Coast	Specific actions to be taken by NMFS to improve recreational fishing while meeting conservation goals.
West Coast	Successful support for more flexibility in rebuilding fisheries.
West Coast	Improved understanding among the fishermen of how they can effectively participate in the management process, and how that process will listen to and respect their inputs and needs.

Appendix C
Summit Program

Welcome

Today, you join more than 100 other members of the saltwater fishing community and NOAA staff to reflect on past progress, identify current challenges, and collaborate on solutions.

This year's Summit may be different than other meetings you have attended. While we will begin with a few welcoming remarks and informational presentations, the majority of our time will be spent in group and table discussions. We will also take advantage of the latest technology to gather everyone's individual feedback in real-time.

MAKERS, an independent facilitation team, helped design the agenda and will facilitate our conversations here. You are encouraged to share ideas and opinions while also listening and learning from your peers. MAKERS will help ensure that all perspectives are heard and our discussions are focused and productive.

Many have helped make this event possible. We are especially appreciative of the staff at the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. But most of all, **thank you** for taking the time to be here.

Logistics

Where should I sit?
You will notice a number on the back of your name badge indicating your initial seating assignment to begin the day. On the afternoon of the first day, we will ask you to move to a different table so you can visit with colleagues and hear a range of perspectives.

Can I get online?
You will have access to WiFi, but we hope the conversations are engaging enough for you to save the emails until later. We do encourage you to let your colleagues know what's happening at the Summit using the Twitter hashtag #ifishsaltwater.

Questions? Just ask any NOAA Fisheries staff.

AGENDA

Tuesday, April 1

7:00 – 8:00 am	**Welcome packet pick-up** **Continental breakfast**	
8:00 – 8:45 am	**Opening Remarks**	
	Welcome	Dr. Kathryn Sullivan *NOAA*
	NOAA Fisheries	Eileen Sobeck *NOAA Fisheries*
	Fishing Community	John Brownlee *Bonnier Corporation*
8:45 – 9:00 am	**Summit Overview**	Julie Bassuk *MAKERS*
9:00 – 10:30 am	**Setting the Stage**	
	Progress since the 2010 Summit	Russell Dunn *NOAA Fisheries*
	Contributions to the ongoing conversation	
	• Morris-Deal Commission Report	Scott Deal *Maverick Boats*
	• NOAA's MAFAC Recreational Fisheries Working Group White Paper	Craig Severance *Hilo Trollers*
	• MAKERS Pre-Summit Attendee Survey	John Owen *MAKERS*
10:30 – 10:45 am	**Break**	

10:45 – 12:00	**Breakout Theme Overview**		
	Angler Satisfaction	Alan Risenhoover *NOAA Fisheries*	Dick Brame *Coastal Conservation Association*
	Healthy Recreational Fisheries	Brian Pawlak *NOAA Fisheries*	Dan Wolford *Pacific Fishery Management Council*
	Science and Data	Dr. Doug Lipton *NOAA Fisheries*	Rick Bellavance *Rhode Island Party and Charterboat Association*
	Successful Relationships	Russ Dunn *NOAA Fisheries*	Ken Franke *Sportfishing Association of California*
12:00 – 1:00 pm	**Lunch** (provided)		
1:00 – 2:00 pm	**Breakout 1 – Angler Satisfaction**		
2:10 – 3:00 pm	**Breakout 2 – Healthy Recreational Fisheries**		
3:10 – 4:15 pm	**Breakout 3 – Science and Data**		
4:25 – 5:15 pm	**Breakout 4 – Successful Relationships**		
5:15 – 5:30 pm	**Recap and Preview of Day 2**		Julie Bassuk *MAKERS*
6:00 – 7:30 pm	**Reception**		

Wednesday, April 2

7:00 am	**Coffee**		
8:00 am – 8:20 am	**Day 2 Overview**		Julie Bassuk Andy Fenstermacher *MAKERS*
8:20 – 8:45 am	**Regional Engagement and Collaboration Breakout Overview**		Ed Watamura *Hawaii Fishermen's Alliance for Conservation and Tradition* John Bullard *NOAA Fisheries*
8:45 – 9:45 am	**Breakout – Regional Engagement and Collaboration**		
9:45 – 10:00 am	**Break**		
10:00 – 11:30 am	**Refine Day 1 Breakout Results**		Julie Bassuk John Owen *MAKERS*
11:30 – 12:30 pm	**Lunch** (provided)		
12:30 – 1:15 pm	**Breakout – Next Steps and Markers for Success**		
1:15 – 2:00 pm	**Group Discussion on Next Steps**		Julie Bassuk John Owen *MAKERS*
2:00 – 2:45 pm	**Reactions Panel**	Doug Boyd *Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council* Jim Martin *Pure Fishing*	Mike Nussman *American Sportfishing Association* Sam Rauch *NOAA Fisheries* Richard Yamada *Shelter Lodge*
2:45 – 3:00 pm	**Closing Remarks**		Eileen Sobeck *NOAA Fisheries*
3:00 pm	**Adjourn**		

BREAKOUT #1

Angler Satisfaction

The pre-summit survey results indicate that the on-the-water fishing experience and satisfaction with management actions are little better today than 4 years ago. Respondents to the survey identified a number of management and conservation issues which, if resolved or acted upon, may lead to improved fishing and help ensure that future generations have high quality angling opportunities.

Identified actions included cooperative state management of recreational species, revisiting the allocation process, more flexibility in rebuilding targets, habitat conservation and enhancements, and improving survival of released fish. Several survey respondents noted that they would like to see new fisheries management approaches, but there were few details on what they might be.

Management issues identified by survey respondents which, if addressed, may better accommodate anglers included (among others):

- Management approaches (e.g., managing for abundance/stock structure vs. yield)
- Allocation process
- Flexibility with rebuilding timelines
- Cooperative state/federal management
- National recreational fisheries policy

Trigger Questions:

1. Are there other priority management/policy approaches and issues important to providing both additional fishing opportunities and stability within recreational fisheries?
2. What are the barriers to implementing identified/preferred approaches and how can they be overcome?
3. What are the next steps and long-term actions needed to address these ideas and by whom (NOAA Fisheries, Councils, States, anglers, Congress)? On what actions can we collaborate and how?
4. What are specific markers of progress which can be tracked?

BREAKOUT #2

Healthy Recreational Fisheries

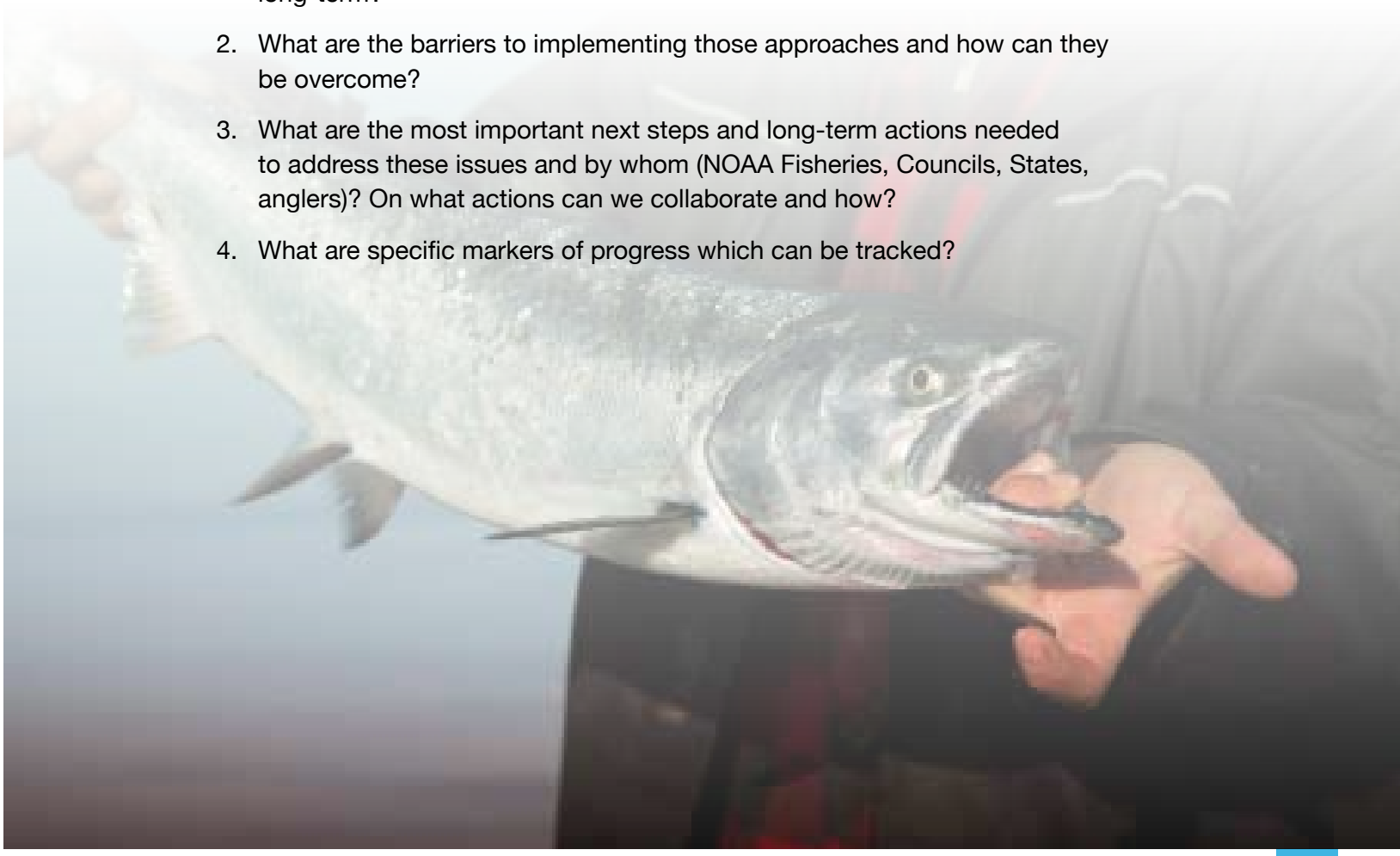
Resource Stewardship

Anglers strongly support the goal of ensuring high quality fishing opportunities for future generations. In addition to the policy and management actions previously discussed, fishermen identified on-the-water and other actions that could help achieve this goal and improve the on-the-water experience in the shorter-term such as:

- Improving post-release survival
- Habitat conservation, restoration, and enhancement
- Forage fish management
- Aquaculture & hatcheries

Trigger Questions:

1. Are there additional conservation/enhancement areas or approaches which may improve angling opportunity and on-the-water satisfaction, short and long-term?
2. What are the barriers to implementing those approaches and how can they be overcome?
3. What are the most important next steps and long-term actions needed to address these issues and by whom (NOAA Fisheries, Councils, States, anglers)? On what actions can we collaborate and how?
4. What are specific markers of progress which can be tracked?



BREAKOUT #3

Science and Data

Data and science (biological and socio-economic) are consistently highlighted by the recreational fishing community as limiting factors in management and viewed as constraints to expanding fishing opportunities. Despite recent improvements, questions remain about the quality, quantity, and timeliness of socio-economic data, catch-effort data, and fish stock assessments, and how these data and assessment/study results (biological and economic) are applied to management decisions. We are always looking for ways to improve science and data as well as angler confidence in the outputs. We recognize solutions may range from more effective communication to greater angler participation, to changes in data collection, analysis, and application.

Trigger Questions:

1. How can we collaborate to make communication on data and science and its application in decision-making more effective? What would enable data and science to be more understandable and accessible to the fishing public?
2. Pre-summit survey results highlight that angler reporting and participation in data collection could be improved with action by the marine recreational fishing community. What steps can be taken by the recreational community and NOAA Fisheries take to follow through on this sentiment?
3. Pre-summit survey results indicate incorporating anglers and angler knowledge into all phases of the scientific process can improve data/science and angler confidence in it. What can be done to better incorporate anglers and angler knowledge into the scientific process?
4. Two visible and important issues which require close collaboration between NOAA and anglers are the development of reliable and statistically valid electronic angler self-reporting systems and accounting of recreational releases. How can we work together to better understand the nuances, challenges, and benefits of these issues as a basis for a path forward?
5. What are the barriers to the proposed solutions identified above and how can they be overcome?
6. Of the actions or steps identified above, which are the most important?
7. What are specific markers of progress which can be tracked?

BREAKOUT #4

Successful Relationships

Recent surveys indicate improved relationships between NOAA Fisheries and anglers, but there are still substantial opportunities for more and better collaboration. For example, the perception remains that NOAA Fisheries does not yet fully recognize anglers as a major stakeholder community with a large economic impact, unique needs, and different incentives than commercial fishermen. Broadly, anglers cite a lack of transparency in decision making, poor cooperation and communication, and management decisions which may not align with the community's interests as evidence the Agency doesn't understand or isn't listening. We would like to know more about what specifically gives rise to this perception and what might be done about it.

Trigger Questions:

1. Do you have examples of a positive relationship with a federal or state management body? What specific attributes, characteristics, and/or actions make this relationship positive?
2. What are the barriers to creating more positive relationships and how can they be overcome?
3. What are the most important actions that both NOAA and the recreational fishing community might take to build a more positive relationship?
4. What are specific markers of progress which can be tracked?

BREAKOUT #5

Regional Engagement and Collaboration

NOAA Fisheries works to engage the recreational fishing community in many ways including empaneling advisory bodies, conducting public meetings, listening tours, and town hall calls, using social media, and participating in stakeholder led meetings/events such as club meetings and boat shows, etc. We recognize that the "rubber hits the road outside the beltway," where anglers/non-commercial fishermen live and fish. NOAA Fisheries' field structure (5 regional offices and 6 regional fisheries science centers) is organized to focus at the regional level. The Agency relies heavily on the regional recreational action agenda development process to engage the recreational/non-commercial community in identifying priority actions, discussing potential program response, and providing markers for accomplishment or improvement.

Pre-summit survey respondents identified a number of communication/engagement issues, including interest in:

- More, regular communications
- Visible points of contact
- Dedicated resources to enable regional staff
- Proactive agency engagement within the community
- Additional meaningful dialogue on issues
- More visibility of coordinators within the community

Trigger Questions:

1. What does engagement mean to you?
2. How can regional engagement be improved?
3. What are the current challenges to more effective regional engagement?
4. What opportunities are there to work together at the regional and national levels to increase communication and collaboration?
5. What opportunities are there to enhance development, content, and execution of the action agendas?
6. What are the most important actions that might be taken, especially at the national level, to take advantage of those opportunities?
7. What are specific markers of progress which can be tracked?

SPEAKER BIOS

In speaking order

Dr. Kathy Sullivan

Dr. Kathryn Sullivan was confirmed by the Senate as the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator on March 6, 2014, having served as Acting NOAA Administrator since February 28, 2013. She is a distinguished scientist, renowned astronaut and intrepid explorer. Prior to her appointment as Administrator, Dr. Sullivan held the position of Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Environmental Observation and Prediction and Deputy Administrator, and also performed the duties of NOAA's Chief Scientist, a vacant position. As Assistant Secretary, Dr. Sullivan played a central role in directing Administration and NOAA priority work in the areas of weather and water services, climate science and services, integrated mapping services and Earth-observing capabilities.

Eileen Sobeck

Eileen joined NOAA as the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries on January 27, 2014. Eileen brings more than 30 years of natural resource management experience to the agency, most recently from the U.S. Department of the Interior. In her new role at Fisheries, she will manage over 4,800 employees, most of whom are deployed around the nation in five regional offices and six science centers from New England to Alaska. She started her federal career in 1979 as an attorney for NOAA working on protected species litigation and enforcement.

John Brownlee

John Brownlee currently serves as editor-in-chief of both *Salt Water Sportsman* and *Marlin* magazines at Bonnier Corp., as well as hosting the *Sport Fishing Television* show on the NBC Sports Network. He has also spent many years working for marine conservation and served two terms on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, where he acted as the council's representative on the ICCAT advisory committee for two years. He has sat on the boards of many conservation organizations, and was chairman of both the Florida Conservation Association (now CCA-Florida) and the board of The Billfish Foundation, on which he still serves. Brownlee makes his home in Islamorada, Florida, where he is the upper Keys representative for the International Game Fish Association.

Julie Bassuk

A partner at MAKERS since 2004, Julie Bassuk helps federal agencies, port districts, and communities make good decisions about their futures. With 16 years of experience helping her clients address complex issues, Julie has employs an effective and inclusive approach to working with stakeholders with divergent interests.

Russell Dunn

Russ has 18 years of public and private-sector experience in national and international marine fisheries policy. Prior to becoming the National Policy Advisory for Recreational Fisheries, he was the branch chief of NOAA Fisheries Highly Migratory Species Management Division, served as a policy advisor to the U.S. Delegation to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, and worked as director of government relations at the National Audubon Society for its Living Oceans Campaign. In the early 1990's, he worked for then- Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell. An avid angler, Russell is based in St. Petersburg, FL, in the heart of the nation's largest recreational fishing region.

Scott Deal

Scott was born in Winter Park Florida in 1960, and grew up fishing for bass in the Winter Park Chain of lakes. After graduating from Princeton in 1982, Scott began a career with the Xerox corporation. In 1985, the he was given the opportunity to purchase the molds to the 18 Foot Maverick flats boat. At the age of 24, Scott left Xerox and started Maverick Boat Company, Inc., which has consistently been the largest builder of flats boats in the country for over 20 years. In 1997 he started the Pathfinder Boat bay boat line and purchased the Cobia boat brand from Yamaha in 2005. His industry activities include past Chairman of the IBBI, the largest marine buying group in the country, past Chairman of the NMMA's Grow Boating BOD, current Chairman of the BMD Divisional board of the NMMA and Vice

chair of the NMMA National Board. He is the first recipient of the Florida Coastal Conversation Association Lifetime Achievement Award and is on the BOD of both CCA and the Center for Coastal Conservation, both advocates for fisheries stock protection and angler access. An avid saltwater fisherman, Scott has won numerous saltwater fishing tournaments including the Islamorada Fly Bonefish tournament, The Don Hawley all Release Fly Tarpon tournament and was a 3 time consecutive winner of the Redbone tournament series. Scott resides in Vero Beach, Florida with his family where he continues to actively fish for everything from redfish to sailfish.

Craig Severance

Craig is a fisheries anthropologist in Hawaii and is Captain of the FV Kilisou. He has won "Fisherman of the Year" in the Hilo Trollers annual tournament series and now serves as weighmaster for Hilo Trollers. He also serves The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council on their SSC, Scientific and Statistical Committee, and other committees. He is a member of MACZAC, the Hawaii Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council and a member of the MAFAC, Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee RFWG, Recreational Fisheries Working group.

John Owen

As partner at MAKERS since 1979, John Owen's professional experience has focused on helping organizations and communities achieve their goals through collective efforts. His work ranges from community planning and urban design to environmental management and public policy.

Richen Brame

Dick holds BS and MS degrees in Fisheries and Wildlife Science from North Carolina State University and worked for several conservation groups before coming to CCA. He served as the first executive director for CCA in North Carolina, from 1989 to 2000 and achieved notable fisheries management goals including passage of the Fisheries Reform Act of 1997. He became the Regional Fisheries Director for CCA working with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and recently added the Gulf Council to his area of responsibility. Brame is a member of NOAA's Operations Team for the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) developing the nuts and bolts of the new data gathering program. He is also the liaison between the Operations Team and the Registry Team that is defining what the angler registry must encompass and what the states must do to comply with it.

Alan Risenhoover

Alan is the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries which oversees regulatory and management activities related to Atlantic highly migratory species, national fisheries policy development and implementation, domestic fisheries regulatory coordination, Atlantic Coastal Act implementation, outreach and constituent services, and food safety risk analysis. The Office also tracks the agency's commitment to ensuring sustainable fisheries and science-based management through an annual Status of the Stocks Report and the Fish Stock Sustainability Index. He started his federal career with NOAA Fisheries in 1989, and has served in several key national positions including Acting Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Acting Director for Office of Law Enforcement; Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries; and Deputy Chief Financial Officer/Deputy Chief Administrative Officer. He came to Washington, DC, in 1988 as a Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellow.

Dan Wolford

Dan is the Science Director of the Coastside Fishing Club, and is in his third term as an at-large member of the Pacific Fishery Management Council. He grew up fishing in Oregon's lakes and rivers, but for the last 45 years has resided in California, where he has focused on the marine fisheries off the California coast. Since retiring from the aerospace industry in 2001 he has been a volunteer advocate for recreational fishermen in support of science based fisheries management. He has actively supported research into rockfish barotrauma survivability, and advocated for release strategies to improve survivability of regulatory discards, developed recreational groundfish catch estimation methodologies, supported salmon net pen acclimation projects, and participated in the California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative. He has a strong conservation ethic, and is focused on improving the recreational fishing experience for current and future generations.

Rick Bellavance

Rick is a lifelong Rhode Island resident and has been fishing recreationally for 30 years. He owns and operates Priority Fishing Charters based in Point Judith. Rick is the President of the Rhode Island Party and Charter Boat Association (RIPCBA), a group of 70 Charter and Party Boat operators who are committed to promoting the for hire industry in Rhode Island and working with regulators and fishermen to develop sustainable and profitable fisheries management practices for this industry. He is an Industry Representative to the Rhode Island Samp, a Marine Spatial Planning Initiative. Rick graduated from the Gulf of Maine Research Institute's Marine Resources Education Program (MREP) and went on to work with GMRI as a facilitator for MREP and Board member. Capt. Bellavance is a member of the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council (RIMFC) and one of Rhode Island's Commissioners to the Atlantic State Marine Fisheries Commission. Rick sits on a number of advisory panels for the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), The New England Fisheries Management Council (NEFMC), the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council and he chairs the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Advisors. Capt. Bellavance earned his 100 Ton U.S.C.G. Maters License in 1994. He is a PADI Dive Instructor.

Kenneth Franke

Ken Franke is a member of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC) and the chairman of the Subcommittee on Recreational Fishing. In addition Ken is the President of the Sportfishing Association of California (2009-present). This organization, based in San Diego oversees representation of 160 companies in the marine industry with regard to regulatory agency representation both in the United States, Mexico, France and several Central American countries. Ken also owns and operates the vessel Outer Limits. This vessel is involved in the data collection and development of marine acoustic and security related technologies projects for NOAA, USCG, USN, USGS, and DHS; including the operation of remotely operated submarine vehicles and autonomous underwater vehicles.

Andy Fenstermacher

Andy Fenstermacher works with municipalities, federal agencies, tribal organizations, and private sector clients to address their planning needs related to the natural and built environments. He has facilitated processes with clients and their stakeholders on a wide range of topics, from urban redevelopment and master planning to emergency management and institutional resilience.

Ed Watamura

Ed is Chairman of the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Councils Advisory Panel, which includes the Hawaiian Islands, Guam, CNMI, and American Samoa. He is also am included in the membership of the Permanent Advisory Committee to the WCPFC. This year Ed and 4 other fishermen formed an Organization called HFACT (Hawaii Fishermen's Alliance for Conservation and Tradition). The organization is to be the ears and voice of Hawaii's fishermen, in the Legislative process, as well as various State and Federal fishing organizations. Ed is also the President of the Waialua Boat Club, the oldest of its' kind in Hawaii.

John Bullard

John Bullard has been the Regional Administrator for NOAA's Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office in Gloucester, MA since July 2012. Mr. Bullard oversees development and implementation of NOAA Fisheries' domestic and international management programs for living marine resources and their habitats in federal waters from Canada to Cape Hatteras. A native of New Bedford, Massachusetts with a lifelong interest in the ocean, Mr. Bullard joined NOAA Fisheries after serving 10 years as President of the Woods Hole, Massachusetts-based Sea Education Association (SEA). Prior to joining SEA, Mr. Bullard served on the Chancellor's senior staff at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. From 1993 to 1998, Mr. Bullard was a member of the Clinton administration in Washington, D.C., where he led NOAA's first federal Office of Sustainable Development and Intergovernmental Affairs. He also worked on the President's Council on Sustainable Development. At the state and regional level, Mr. Bullard helped create a pioneering marine spatial plan as a governor-appointed member of the Massachusetts' Ocean Advisory Commission. From 1986 to 1992, Mr. Bullard was mayor of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts.

Jim Martin

Jim retired after 30 years with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and now works as conservation director for the Berkley Conservation Institute, a branch of Pure Fishing. Pure Fishing is the largest fishing tackle company in the World and is an industry leader in conservation advocacy. During his career with ODFW, Jim spent six years as chief of fisheries and three years as salmon advisor to Governor John Kitzhaber. Jim led the team that developed the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, a state conservation plan to address Endangered Species and clean water issues in Oregon. Jim has a Bachelors Degree in Wildlife and Masters Degree in Fisheries from Oregon State University. Jim formerly held a courtesy appointment at OSU, where he taught Natural Resource Problem Solving in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. Jim is the former Chairman of the Board of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. He is a science and policy advisor for the Northwest Sportfishing Industry Assn. In 2005, Jim was inducted into the National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame in Hayward, Wisconsin. He was recognized for lifetime achievement as an alumni fellow by Oregon State University in November, 2011. Jim is a lifelong sportsman and loves salmon, ducks and Labrador Retrievers. He lives in the small community of Mulino, about 15 miles south of Portland, Oregon. He shares his dream home in the country with his wife of 43 years, Carolyn, and Kodiak and Yukon, the wonderdogs.

Mike Nussman

Since 2001, Mike has served as the President and CEO of the American Sportfishing Association (ASA), the leading recreational fishing trade and tackle manufacturing association in the nation. Prior to joining ASA, he worked for Sen. John Breaux (D-LA) for nine years on the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee. ASA is active politically and focuses on conservation and management policy and its scientific underpinnings as a means of maintaining angler access to fishery resources.

Sam Rauch

Sam Rauch is the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs at the National Marine Fisheries Service. In this role, he oversees the National Marine Fisheries Service's regulatory actions and programs, including those to support the conservation and recovery of marine mammals and endangered species; ensure economically and biologically sustainable fisheries; and promote habitat stewardship through restoration and conservation. The agency's aquaculture activities and its headquarters National Environmental Policy Act programs are also under his purview. Mr. Rauch has served as the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs since June 2006, and also served as Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries from January 2012 to January 2014. From January 2004 to June 2006, Mr. Rauch was the Assistant General Counsel for Fisheries where he supervised a team of attorneys, paralegals, and support staff responsible for providing legal counsel to the National Marine Fisheries Service. Prior to joining NOAA, he served as a trial attorney and the Assistant Section Chief for the Wildlife and Marine Resources Section of the Environment and Natural Resources Division at the United States Department of Justice.
Mr. Rauch holds a J.D. from the Lewis & Clark Law School, an M.S. from the University of Georgia, and a B.A. from the University of Virginia. He has been the recipient of many honors during his career, including NOAA General Counsel Awards (1998, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2010); Department of Justice Special Achievement Awards (1997, 1998, 2000, 2002) and the Department of Commerce Gold Medal (2007), Bronze Medal (2011) and the Presidential Rank Award (2011).

Richard Yamada

Richard has been involved in Alaska's recreational fishery for over 30 years as a sport fishing lodge owner, charter captain, and recreational fishing advocate at the state, federal, and international level. He is co-author of the CATCH (Catch Accountability Through Compensated Halibut) Report: Integrating a Recreational Fishery into a Catch Share Program and is currently the project director for the BREP grant: Use of Digital Imaging Technology to Reduce Released Halibut Mortality in Alaska's Recreational Fishery. Along with being a member of the MAFAC Recreational Fisheries Working Group, he is the Vice President of the Alaska Charter Association, on the board of the National Association of Charter Boat Operators, and a member of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Charter Halibut Management Implementation Committee.

NOAA Fisheries Recreational Coordinators

Connect with a NOAA Fisheries representative in your region. Each region of the country has at least one staff member assigned to serve as recreational fishing liaison – connecting the community to NOAA Fisheries regional offices and science centers. These coordinators are responsible for much of the on-the-ground progress. They work closely with regional community leaders to develop and implement the Regional Action Agendas.

National Team

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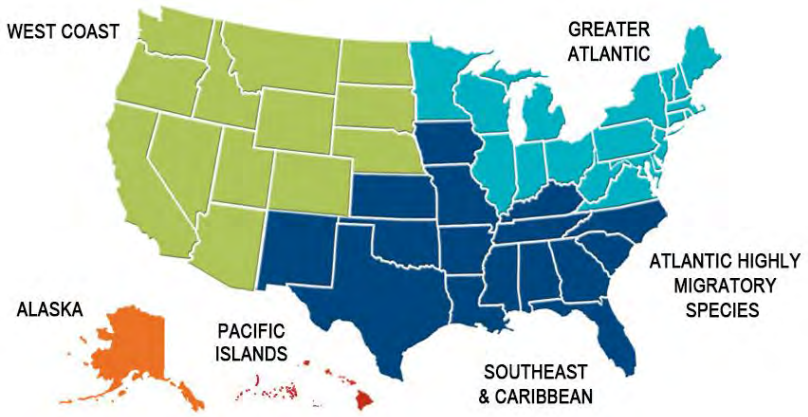

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April 2014

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Appendix D
Summit Evaluations

The following is a summary of a Summit evaluation. The results are presented as an average of the 23 responses on a scale of 1-5, where 1 is poor and 5 is excellent. Any comments provided are listed as well.

Survey Results	Score
How would you rate the Summit overall?	4.1
Were the prep materials adequate?	4.1
Summit objectives met?	
Info for National Action Agenda	4
Identify challenges and solutions	4
Develop framework for actions to improve management	3.8
Strengthen the lines of communication	4.1
How well were the next steps communicated?	3.7
How would you rate the facilitation from MAKERS?	4.3
Did the facilitators...	
Clearly explain the objectives and process?	4.2
Ensure a variety of perspectives were heard?	4.3
Keep the Summit on schedule?	4.6
Treat attendees respectfully?	4.6

Which parts of the Summit were most beneficial?

- Getting to meet representatives from other regions and developing a better perspective of broader National issues.
- Discussion with delegates from other regions- time with RA and have RA interface with delegates.
- Ability to represent our region and communicate our issues and concerns to a broader audience, hoping for consensus.
- Interactions with other regions and listening to their issues.
- Meeting, listening to and hearing situations in other areas.
- Table exchanges- meeting new people.
- It was all very beneficial.
- Regional engagement and group discussion- National policy.
- Engagement with diverse perspectives.
- Breakout groups and monitoring groups.
- Table interaction.
- Meeting others and learning commonalities and differences
- Breakouts.
- Round tables- size of groups, facilitators and rapporteurs roles was just right. Round tables are a fun and engaging tool we should use more.
- All parts.

How could the Summit have been improved?

- Would have been helpful to get a one-sentence summary of the Summit's objectives. As a newcomer, I wasn't sure what was expected of me.
- Time for each region to present a brief overview of their region and key issues.
- Regionally specific
- Come away with concrete examples to tell recreational constituents of how this meeting made a difference to increasing fishing opportunity. List of attendees. List of NOAA hierarchy and attendees.
- Sound deadening in the room.
- Very nice.
- Additional focus on recreational policy document
- Use pre-survey to focus on less diverse set of issues and stay realistic. Many non-starters remain on the table.
- There should have been an MRIP presentation in plenary to inform and update participants; the voting should have taken opportunity to prioritize actions; include state representatives in the Summit process.
- Smaller breakouts.
- Location outside of Washington would be best; in a big rec port or otherwise closer to home for anglers (FL or CA).
- Be aware that some fisheries managers have no business being part of the process. If person A is making decision a source of contention, person A DOES NOT need to be involved.

Are there any other ideas, suggestions, or thoughts?

- Keep the coffee available on the second day.
- Would like to input to the final report or review draft to see if all is noted.
- Serve fish.
- Ensure sanctuaries don't work against recreational opportunities and see what sanctuaries work to enhance recreational activities. Do not amend sanctuary designation docs to allow fishery management.
- Some speakers were clearer and better than others- need for or access to PowerPoint was not communicated well to speakers.
- Very well done.
- The voting questions were loaded and didn't make sense. Some questions included multiple issues/ ideas/actions; there should have been equal representation as a couple of regions (include ours) were more "visible".
- Excellent collaborative effort among NMFS, ASMFC Councils to put on a great Summit.
- Have more private rec fisheries input. NGO and Associations have agendas.

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Acknowledgements

Summit Participants

David Anderson — Center for Coastal Conservation
Jeff Angers — Center for Coastal Conservation
Bob Beal — Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Rick Bellavance — Rhode Island Party and Charter Boat Association
Lee Blankenship — Northwest Marine Technology
Frank Blount — New England Fishery Management Council
Zack Bowen — South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Doug Boyd — Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
Dick Brame — Coastal Conservation Association
JohnBrownlee — Saltwater Sportsman and Marlin Magazines / Bonnier Corp.
Peter Chaibongsai — The Billfish Foundation
George Cooper — Forbes-Tate
AndrewCox — The Billfish Foundation
Rip Cunningham — Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
ThomDammrich — National Marine Manufacturers Association
Scott Deal — Maverick Boats
Joshua DeMello — Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council
Ed Dersham — North Pacific Fishery Management Council
Jason Didden — Mid Atlantic Fishery Managment Council
Anthony DiLernia — Rocket Charters
Dave Donaldson — Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
Phil Dyskow — Yamaha Marine ret.
Carlos Farchette — Caribbean Fishery Management Council
Skip Feller — Rudee Operations and Tours
Randy FisherFisher — Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
Whit Fosburg — Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Tom Fote — Jersey Coast Angler's Association
Troy Frady — Distraction Charters
Ken Franke — Sportfishing Association of California
Jeff Gabriel — National Marine Manufacturers Association
Ricky Gease — Kenai River Sportfishing
Brad Gentner — Gentner Consulting Group
Marc Gorelnik — Coastside Fishing Club
Ken Haddad — American Sportfishing Association
Caitlin Hammer — Fisheries Leadership and Sustainability Forum
Monty Hawkins — Coastal Conservation Association
Bob Hayes — Coastal Conservation Association
Chris Horton — Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
John Jolley — West Palm Beach Fishing Club
Michael Kennedy — Coastal Conservation Association
Rob Kramer — International Game Fish Association
George LaPointe — George LaPointe Consulting
Mike Leonard — American Sportfishing Association
Carl Liederman — Captain Harry's Fishing Supply
Chris Macaluso — Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Tom Marking — Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers
Jim Martin — Pure Fishing
Tom Mattusch — Coastside Fishing Club
Larry McKinney — Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies
John McMurray — Mid Atlantic Fishery Managment Council
Andy Mezirow — Crackerjack Charters
Dave Monti — No Fluke Charter
Roy Morioka — Hawaii Fishermen's Alliance for Conservation and Tradition
Geoff Mullins — Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Mike Nussman — American Sportfishing Association
Kevin O'Donovan — Center for Coastal Conservation
Doug Olander — Sportfishing Magazine / Bonnier
Patrick Paquette — MA Striped Bass Association
Matt Paxton — Coastal Conservation Association
Ellen Peel — The Billfish Foundation
Tom Raftican — Sportfishing Conservancy
Ron Regan — Association fo Fish and Wildlife Agencies
McGrew Rice — Ihu Nui Sportsfishing
Gordon Robertson — American Sportfishing Association
Rick Robins — Mid Atlantic Fishery Managment Council
Jesse Rosario — Guam Fishermen Cooperative Association
Jason Schratweiser — International Game Fish Association
Dean Sensui — Hawaii Goes Fishing
Craig Severance — University of Hawaii Hilo
Bob Shipp — University of South Alabama
Kitty Simonds — Western Pacific Fishery Management Council
Gary Smith — Private Angler
Rob Southwick — Southwick Associates
Greg Stunz — Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation - Texas A&M University
Lange Sykes — Coastal Conservation Association
Debbie Takayama — Pacific Islands Fisheries Group
Nicole Vasileros — National Marine Manufacturers Association
Ed Watamura — Waialua Boat Club
Gerald Weaver — Saipan Fishermen's Association
Rom Whitaker — Release sportfishing
Geoff White — Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program
Mary Jane Williamson — American Sportfishing Association
Charlie Witek — Writer/Blogger
Dan Wolford — Pacific Fishery Management Council
Richard Yamada — Shelter Lodge
Bob Zales — National Association of Charterboat Operators
Louis Zimm — San Diego Yatch Club
Gary Zurn — Bigrock Sports

NOAA Fisheries

Karen Abrams — Sustainable Fisheries
Kim Amendola — Southeast Region
Leif Anderson — Northwest Fisheries Science Center
Seema Balwani — Sustainable Fisheries
Lee Benaka — Science and Technology
Randy Blankinship — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species
Kenneth Brennan — Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Russ Brown — Northeast Fisheries Science Center
John Bullard — Greater Atlantic Region
Pat Campfield — Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Mark Chandler — Science and Technology
Gordon Colvin — Recreational Fisheries Initiative
Roy Crabtree — Southeast Region
Rita Curtis — Science and Technology
Forbes Darby — Recreational Fisheries Initiative
George Darcy — Greater Atlantic Region
Kelly Denit — Sustainable Fisherie
EJ Dick — Southwest Fisheries Science Center
Russell Dunn — Recreational Fisheries Initiative
Janine Harris — Habitat Conservation
James Hilger — Southwest Fisheries Science Center
Cliff Hutt — Science and Technology
David Itano — Pacific Islands Region
Kristen Koch — Southwest Fisheries Science Center
Laura Leach — Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Sabrina Lovell — Science and Technology
Chris Lunsford — Alaska Fisheries Science Center
Hongguang Ma — Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center
Brad McHale — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species
Emily Menashes — Sustainable Fisheries
Earl Meredith — Northeast Fisheries Science Center
Rob Moller — Legislative Affairs
Kate Naughten — Communications
Brian Pawlak — Habitat Conservation
Paul Perra — Greater Atlantic Region
Bonnie Ponwith — Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Sam Rauch — NOAA Fisheries
Alesia Read — NOAA Fisheries
Danielle Rioux — Recreational Fisheries Initiative
Alan Risenhoover — Sustainable Fisheries
Julie Scheurer — Alaska Region
Leah Sharpe — Science and Technology
Eileen Sobeck — NOAA Fisheries
John Stein — Northwest Fisheries Science Center
Heidi Taylor — West Coast Region
Barry Thom — West Coast Region
Mike Tosatto — Pacific Islands Region
Galen Tromble — Sustainable Fisheries
Michelle Walsh — Sustainable Fisheries
Lisa White — Protected Resources
Erin Wilkinson — Sustainable Fisheries
Bob Williams — Recreational Fisheries Initiative

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